

**IMPROVING THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM  
TO ACHIEVE GREATER GAINS FOR  
CHILDREN'S NUTRITION AND HEALTH**

**Submitted to:**

**Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry  
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture**

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Chairman Baca and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.

I am Jim Weill, President of the Food Research and Action Center (“FRAC”). The Food Research and Action Center has been working for 37 years to reduce and eventually end hunger in this country. Through research, policy advocacy, outreach, public education, and training and technical assistance for state and local advocates, public agencies, officials and providers, we seek to strengthen public nutrition programs and have them reach many more people in need.

FRAC has been instrumental in helping to launch, improve and expand the food stamp, WIC, school breakfast, summer food and other nutrition programs.

Today’s topic is extremely important. The Food Stamp Program is a very strong and successful program – the nation’s most important bulwark against hunger. The program is essential to the basic well-being of millions of Americans, including the nutrition and health of children, but needs to be strengthened further. My testimony will discuss: first the reasons that the program is so successful; then its important positive impact on children’s nutrition and health; and third, key ways in which it needs to be improved.

Even as the economy has grown year after year, lower-income Americans have received a shrinking share of the economic pie, losing out both relatively (compared to high-income groups) and absolutely (compared to the cost of living). Incomes typically have lagged growing health, housing and energy costs. Poverty, food insecurity, and similar problems caused by inadequate wages and economic supports generally have increased. The number of people living in poverty rose from 31.6 million in 2000 to 37 million in 2005. The number of people living in households facing food insecurity – the government phrase for families without the resources to feed themselves enough, or unable for economic reasons to purchase a healthy diet, or otherwise struggling with hunger – rose from 31 million in 1999 to 38.2 million in 2004, and then fell to 35.1 million in 2005, still well above 1999 levels (2006 data are not yet available). More than 12 million children live in food insecure households.

There are many heartbreaking stories those of us on this panel could tell about individuals and families struggling against hunger, stories whose poignancy merely grows when we think of our nation’s extraordinary abundance. The one I keep coming back to in my mind involves a mother standing on a seemingly endless line of 896 people waiting outside a food bank in rural southeastern Ohio, as reported by the TV show 60 Minutes a couple of years ago. She explained to the reporter that she bought whole milk and cut it with an equal part of water: “It makes milk last longer. Because the baby...needs milk.” When asked what her dream in life was, this rural Ohio mother in our rich twenty-first century America said that it was to feed her baby undiluted milk.

A stronger Food Stamp Program could fulfill that dream. We should not have to explain to this mother and millions like her that, even as the economy grows, the needed program

improvements can't happen and, indeed, food stamp benefits will continue to be reduced further each year because of a law Congress passed in 1996.

As a nation, we can do better.

### **I. Food Stamps and Low-Income Americans.**

The Food Stamp Program is the government's first line of defense against hunger and food insecurity, and a key factor in bolstering family economic success, ameliorating poverty and improving nutrition and health.

For many low-income people, food stamps are the critical lifeline – a source of basic income as fundamentally important as Social Security is to seniors. Indeed, in the 1980s then-Senator Robert Dole described the program as the most important advance in America's social programs since the creation of Social Security. Food stamp benefits lift the incomes of 2.2 million Americans/year above the poverty line. Food stamp benefits are the single most effective program in lifting children out of extreme poverty (defined as family income below 50 percent of the poverty line). Families with earnings from low-wage work are heavily reliant on food stamps. For example, at the earnings level of a family of four with one full-time minimum wage worker, food stamp benefits are about \$5,000 and the Earned Income Tax Credit is \$4,100. As cash welfare eligibility has shrunk and more and more people have entered the workforce, but at low wages, moreover, there has been a sharp increase in the proportion of food stamp households with work income, as opposed to welfare.

The program has a range of other policy and political strengths that have been key to its growing success over the years:

- An initiative that began with bipartisan support in the 1960s and 1970s, with early champions like Senators Robert Dole and George McGovern and then Representatives Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland, has continued to receive an extraordinary level of support from members of both parties. There also is considerable state and local official support, again from officeholders in both parties.
- President Bush's Department of Agriculture has been a positive force since 2001 in increasing the access of eligible people to the program. President Bush's support in 2002 of eligibility for legal immigrants and better access for working families was an important factor in the steps forward made that year.
- Polls show that Americans care deeply about eliminating hunger in this country, feel that not enough is being done in that regard, and want greater government efforts.
- The continuing entitlement nature of the program has made it flexible and responsive to changes in economic conditions (whether local or national) and to

emergencies. The Food Stamp Program stood out among federal programs after Katrina for its very fast and effective response to the needs of hundreds of thousands of families on the Gulf Coast.

- The replacement of food stamp coupons by electronic benefits cards and other initiatives have reduced errors and fraud (more than 98 percent of benefits go to eligible households), and made the use of program benefits at the checkout lane much less visible, thereby reducing the stigma of participation.
- In a time of growing insecurity and growing economic volatility for low-income families - - more changes in employment and wages - - the entitlement nature of food stamps, the national benefit structure (with benefit amounts inversely scaled to family income in a way essentially uniform across the nation), and the very few “categorical” restrictions on eligibility all contribute to the program’s responsiveness to need.
- The program has support from disparate sectors, including the agricultural sector, food companies, and grocery retailers; labor; and the religious community.
- The program supports many low-income working families (including those leaving welfare), children and seniors, as well as disabled and unemployed persons. There also are more than 600,000 veterans in households receiving food stamps.
- Food stamps reach millions of people from all parts of our society – e.g., Whites, African-Americans and Hispanics; rural, suburban and urban households. I know that some think of farm programs as the “rural part” of the Farm Bill and food stamps as the “urban part.” That doesn’t fully reflect the reality, which is better portrayed in a report from the Casey Institute at the University of New Hampshire entitled “Rural America Depends on the Food Stamp Program to Make Ends Meet.” The Casey Institute found that 22 percent of the nation’s population lived in non-metropolitan areas in 2001, but 31 percent of food stamp beneficiaries lived there.

Perhaps the clearest recent summary of the success of food stamps and the results of the considerable strengthening of the program came in a January issue of The National Journal devoted to “10 Successes [and] 10 Challenges” in American society – major issues in the public and private sectors. Alongside cleaner air, successful assimilation of immigrants, American entrepreneurship, and six other successes was food stamps, described as “A Government Reform That Worked.” The National Journal was particularly struck by the extremely low rates of program fraud, and the quick and effective response of the program on the Gulf Coast after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005. I have attached the article to this testimony.

## **II. Food Stamps and Children's Health and Nutrition**

Sometimes we take for granted the general good health and nutrition of our nation's children, and forget that it is our nutrition programs that have made a huge difference for millions of them. I would like to begin this part of my testimony by pointing out that 2007 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a ground-breaking Congressional hearing on hunger in America, and its health and nutrition consequences for children. At that hearing physicians shocked Congress and the nation with their descriptions of the state of nutrition and health among children in poor areas of Appalachia and the southeastern United States. Dr. Raymond Wheeler, a physician from North Carolina, testified on behalf of the Physicians Task Force on Hunger:

“Wherever we went and wherever we looked we saw children in significant numbers who were hungry and sick, children for whom hunger is a daily fact of life, and sickness in many forms, inevitability. The children we saw were more than just malnourished. They were hungry, weak, and apathetic. Their lives were being shortened. They are visibly and predictably losing their health, their energy and their spirits. They are suffering from hunger and disease, and directly or indirectly, they are dying from them, which is exactly what starvation means.”

Beginning that day, many more Americans came to understand the importance of ending hunger and improving nutrition to ensure the health and educational achievement of our children. Federal nutrition programs have been created and expanded to ensure that the desperate situation Dr. Wheeler described would never again happen in our nation. By the late 1970s studies found hunger had been dramatically reduced by food stamps and other government initiatives like WIC and school meals. But we have in essence stalled, and in some respects slid backward since then.

We need to reinvigorate our nation's anti-hunger effort.

All of us recognize the importance of a healthful and sufficient diet for children, from the molecular biologist studying nutrition at the cellular level to the mothers and fathers among us who see it each day in our children's growth and development. But one difference today is that we are seeing and hearing more and more findings from laboratory research, epidemiological studies, and nutrition interventions that contribute to our growing understanding of the vital importance of enough good food for the next generation - - for their health and cognitive, physical, emotional and social development - - and the role of food stamps in accomplishing that. Food security, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture defines as “access by all people [in the household] at all times to enough food for an active healthy life,” translates, for children, into optimal cognitive development and better education outcomes, improved mental health and self-esteem, better family dynamics, healthier children with healthier futures, and obesity prevention. Every day the Food Stamp Program works to make sure that millions of low-income children enjoy these positive outcomes. And, with additional funding and targeted

changes in the program, it can make even more of a difference for these and other children and their families.

**Food stamps increase the nutrition available to low-income children.** Over half of food stamp recipients are children, making it nearly as much of a child nutrition program as School Lunch and Breakfast. Food stamps increase household food spending, and research on the effects of food stamps on overall household food consumption reveals that basic nutrients in home food supplies are increased substantially (20 to 40 percent) by food stamps. USDA reports that the very large majority of benefits are spent on basic food items—for example, vegetables, fruits, grain products, meat and meat alternatives account for nearly three quarters of the money value of food used by food stamp recipients.

One study by USDA researchers using national food consumption data looked at the impact of the Food Stamp Program on households' Healthy Eating Index (HEI) scores (an indicator of overall dietary quality developed by USDA based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans) and found that the value of food stamps received by a household had a substantial and statistically significant positive effect on overall dietary quality. For each dollar of food stamps that a household received, the household HEI score went up—the higher the level of food stamps, the larger the positive nutritional effect.

Another group of researchers looked specifically at the effects of household food stamp participation on the nutrient intakes of children 1 to 4 years old, using the same national food consumption data. They found that for iron, vitamin A, thiamin, niacin and zinc, the Food Stamp Program had a significant positive effect on the intakes of this age group. Again, the intakes of these nutrients were significantly related to the amount of food stamps received—as benefits went up, the amount of each nutrient in the diet went up as well.

Another recent study demonstrated that, among 8000 children followed from kindergarten to third grade, those whose families began to receive food stamps achieved significantly greater improvement in reading and math than those whose families stopped receiving food stamps.

In short, the evidence is that food stamps make a positive difference for nutrition, and the consumption of a nutritionally adequate and healthful diet contributes to better health and educational outcomes for children.

**Food stamps increase the food available to low-income children and their families and thus move families closer to food security, and further away from the adverse consequences of food insecurity.** As indicated earlier, more than 12 million children in the U.S. live in food insecure households – 16.9 percent of children live in food insecure households, compared to 10.4 percent of adults.

Researchers are finding that when children live in food insecure households, their health status can be impaired, making them less able to resist illness and more likely to become sick or hospitalized. Iron deficiency anemia among young children has also been associated with household food insecurity. Children from food insecure households have problems with learning, resulting in lower grades and test scores. They are also more likely to be anxious and irritable in the classroom, and more likely to be tardy, or absent from school. Adolescents from food insecure households have been shown to be more likely to have psychological problems.

According to a survey of several thousand mothers of 3-year old children in 18 large cities, mental health problems in mothers and behavioral problems in their preschool-aged children were twice as likely in food insecure households as in food secure households. In discussing their findings, the researchers assert: “Social policy can address food insecurity more directly than it can address many other early-life stresses, and doing so can enhance the well-being of mothers and children.” The Food Stamp Program is one of the social policies that can bring families with children more food security.

Put differently, in the metaphor used by Dr. Deborah Frank of Boston Medical Center and the Children’s Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program, food stamps are like a childhood vaccine against malnutrition, hunger and food insecurity – a miracle drug that cuts babies’ chances of dying, reduces hospitalizations, and increases children’s school achievement. But because benefits are inadequate, we are giving children (in Dr. Frank’s words) a “sub-therapeutic” dose of this miracle drug – enough to make them better, but less than science tells us they need, the equivalent of giving children penicillin that isn’t quite enough to really cure a strep throat. And we are giving this miracle drug only to 60 percent of the people who need it. If this nation were giving polio or measles vaccine to only 60 percent of children, and in sub-therapeutic doses, I believe this Congress would act immediately.

**Food stamps, by moving families closer to food security and by allowing them to afford healthful diets on a more consistent basis, can play an important role in preventing childhood obesity.** Certainly obesity among low-income people as well as more affluent people in our society is a serious concern. Some have worried that food stamps, by the mere fact of paying for food, contribute to obesity. But all the evidence is to the contrary. It is adequate resources for a healthy diet that reduce obesity, not hunger, stress, or recurrent cycles of eating and lack of enough food to eat. Food stamps and other nutrition programs can play a protective role against obesity, although that role may well be diminished by the inadequacy of the benefit amount.

Emerging research is showing that participation in nutrition programs has the potential of protecting children from excess weight gain. An analysis of nationally representative survey data shows that school-age food insecure girls are less likely to be overweight or at risk of overweight if they participate in the School Breakfast Program, School Lunch Program or Food Stamp Program, or any combination of these programs.

Research has shown that obesity can be a potential consequence of food insecurity among women. The reasons may include the ways in which low-income mothers must cope with limited resources for food—sacrificing at times their own nutrition in order to protect their children from hunger and lower nutritional quality. Food insecurity and poverty may also act as physiological stressors leading to hormonal changes that predispose women to obesity. This interaction between food insecurity and obesity does not show up as consistently among children. This may be because families work so hard to protect their children from the consequences of household food insecurity. One of the programs that helps families do this is the Food Stamp Program. An expert panel appointed by the USDA has reviewed the scientific literature and found no evidence of a relationship between food stamp use and obesity. Similarly, an analysis of data from a national representative child development survey showed no evidence that the Food Stamp Program contributed to overweight among poor children. Research and common sense lead to the conclusion that a more adequate Food Stamp Program that supplies vulnerable families with the level of benefits they need to purchase healthful diets on a consistent and reliable basis will help children avoid both food insecurity and obesity.

### **III. Acting in Food Stamp Reauthorization to Promote Children’s Health and Nutrition**

As important and effective as the Food Stamp Program is, it still needs to be improved in significant ways to further reduce hunger and food insecurity and support nutrition and health.

Recently a team of academic researchers, led by Harry Holzer of Georgetown University, produced an analysis of The Economic Costs of Poverty in the United States: Subsequent Effects of Children Growing Up Poor. They concluded that childhood poverty imposes very large long-term economic costs on American society - - by adversely affecting health, education, productivity and other attributes and outcomes, children’s poverty leads to such outcomes as added health costs and lower earnings as adults. The total cost to this country is equal to nearly four percent of GDP, or about \$500 billion per year.

One reason these costs are being incurred - - why our children are being harmed and our economy is being held back - - is the nation’s widespread hunger and food insecurity among families with children. As just one example, as Dr. Deborah Frank testified to the House Budget Committee four weeks ago that among children under age 3 (she specializes in the problems of very poor, very young children) those who are food insecure are 90 percent more likely to be in poor health and 30 percent more likely to require hospitalization.

Our nation can improve the nutrition and health of children, as well as seniors, parents and others, and strengthen its schools, health care system and economy by making needed investments in the Food Stamp Program.

Our top priority for the 2007 Farm Bill thus is a strong nutrition title that reflects this strategy by reauthorizing and improving the Food Stamp Program. The 2002 Farm Bill

made important progress upon which to build. That bill restored food stamp eligibility for some (but not all) of the many legal immigrants excluded six years earlier; improved access for low-income working families; very modestly increased the standard deduction for some (but a minority of) beneficiaries whose allotment levels had been cut several years earlier by freezing that deduction; reformed how USDA evaluates state administration of the program; and gave states new options to streamline enrollment and reporting, aiding both clients and caseworkers.

But, we have far to go in addressing hunger and food insecurity in this nation. The Food Stamp Program has brought the nation a long way; but it must be strengthened so we can truly move towards eradicating hunger and food insecurity in the midst of our great affluence. To realize the program's potential, Congress must follow three broad strategies: making benefit allotments adequate; opening eligibility to more needy people; and connecting more eligible people with benefits, since only 60 percent of currently eligible people, and barely half of eligible low-income working families, participate in the program. The recommendations below are aimed at achieving these three goals.

These goals are reflected as well in two statements attached by this testimony. The first is a joint position of the Food Research and Action Center, America's Second Harvest - - the Nation's Food Bank Network, and the American Public Human Services Association, the association of state food stamp directors and other state and local government human services professionals. The second is a letter to Congress in support of a strong nutrition title signed by more than 1200 national, state and local organizations, with more joining every day.

As a threshold matter, the 2007 Farm Bill must maintain the entitlement structure of the Food Stamp Program, which responds to increases in need whether due to local or national economic changes or disasters. One recent example underscores this point: the absolutely essential role that the Food Stamp Program played as an effective "responder" in the wake of the devastating hurricanes of 2005. Several factors contributed to that response: leadership from USDA; key efforts of state governments; the efficiency of the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) delivery system; and outreach and advocacy by non-profit partners. But the foremost factor underpinning the Food Stamp Program's ability to act as an effective post-Katrina "responder" was and is its entitlement structure that lets it respond immediately and flexibly to changes in need.

One essential priority in the Bill must be making benefit allotments more adequate - - increasing the minimum benefit and other allotment levels and reversing the impact of long-term benefit cuts embodied in the 1996 law. It is the norm rather than the exception for a food stamp recipient household's benefits to run out several days before the end of the month - - often in the third week of the month. The average benefit of roughly \$1 per person per meal is not enough to purchase an adequate diet. The Thrifty Food Plan, which is the underlying rationale for the benefit amounts, does not represent what a family needs to purchase a minimally adequate diet, particularly for long-term consumption. This shortcoming was bad enough before - - it has only been exacerbated by program changes in 1996 that cut benefits across the board and froze the standard

deduction from income. By next year these cuts will cost a typical family of a parent and two children \$450/year in food stamp benefits - - a huge reduction for families struggling with poverty and hunger.

As this testimony has discussed, food stamps fight both obesity and hunger, and more adequate allotments would do a better job of both. Food stamp benefits should be based on a food plan that reflects what it actually costs to feed a family a healthy diet, and the impact of the reductions in benefits enacted in 1996 must be addressed.

Moreover, the \$10 minimum benefit – unchanged since 1977 -- is woefully inadequate. It provides barely one-third the purchasing power today that it did when it was set. Most often applicable to seniors and persons with disabilities, the \$10 minimum helps too little and discourages very needy people from going through an often complicated application process to obtain such a small amount. A significant increase in the minimum benefit is long overdue.

It is essential, and also long overdue, to revise resource rules so that families need not forfeit meager savings in order to participate. Current resource limits are terribly restrictive - - \$3,000 for households with an elderly or disabled member; \$2,000 for other households. The \$2,000 limit has not been adjusted for more than two decades – while inflation has nearly doubled. Allowing families that suffer unemployment, involuntary part-time work, illness or other financial emergencies to access food stamp benefits without exhausting their resources will help those families rebound and promote their self-sufficiency long-term, and will further bipartisan goals of fostering savings and asset development. I recently heard Robert Dostis, Director of the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and a Vermont state legislator, tell about a client who was homeless and trying to save two months' rent – one for the security deposit and one for the first month – so she could get herself and her family back into housing. Because this hard and laudable effort on her part pushed her above \$2,000 in assets, as it would in most housing markets in this country, she couldn't get food stamps. We have to fix this problem.

We also urge that the 2007 Farm Bill expand eligibility to more needy people left out of the program now. These include all otherwise eligible legal immigrants, able-bodied adults who now face arbitrary time limits, ex-drug felons making new starts in life but disqualified from food stamps for life, and others struggling to make ends meet but facing arbitrary restrictions. We at FRAC are delighted that you will be hearing from Janet Murguia of the National Council of LaRaza this morning about the importance of restoring benefits for legal immigrants. The limitations on these groups' eligibility imposed by the 1996 law, only slightly mitigated since then, has had only one outcome – more hunger and suffering.

The food stamp reauthorization also should allocate funding for food stamp outreach and education activities. As I have indicated, the department estimates that just three of six of those eligible under current rules are participating in the program, and even fewer among working families. USDA's "Food Stamps Make America Stronger" media campaign and competitive grants to fund community-based outreach efforts are important initiatives,

and a sound start. Considerably more funding for these and other efforts will be important to connect more eligible people with benefits.

Good customer service is undermined by inadequate investments in caseworker staffing and office systems. The problems states have in funding these operations have been exacerbated in the last decade, as the federal government discontinued an enhanced federal match rate for state computer expenses and adopted a cost allocation formula below the traditional 50/50 match rate. As states have been squeezed and have under-invested in staff and systems, that has had negative effects on access to the program. We urge increased support for state administrative operations.

The 2007 Farm Bill must continue to allow recipients choice among food purchases and support healthy choices through benefit adequacy, nutrition education, farmers' market access and other strategies. The current clear distinction between food and non-food items is in keeping with the fundamental purposes of the program and provides consumers and retailers with a simple test for determining an eligible product. Proposals to differentiate among food products, drawing lines among the 300,000 food products on the market, would introduce unnecessary complexity. They also could well drive hungry people out of the program. Much of the stigma that had attached to the Food Stamp Program in the past stemmed from the public nature of redeeming food stamp coupons (the physical scrip that formerly was used) in a supermarket line. The implementation of EBT technology has helped to mainstream and make virtually invisible the food stamp purchase transaction at point of sale. Conversely, treating recipient shoppers differently from other consumers and raising questions at check-out as to what is reimbursable would threaten to increase stigma and run counter to national and state efforts to empower people as they move to self-sufficiency.

Providing people with adequate resources to purchase food is essential, and strengthening the Food Stamp Nutrition Education programs is a second important component in a multi-faceted approach to ensuring good nutrition outcomes and addressing the nation's obesity problem. Other components include: supporting strategies that allow food stamps to be used at farmers' markets; ensuring appropriate outlets in communities for obtaining reasonably priced fruits and vegetables; and altering environmental messages that affect individuals' behavior.

Finally, we agree with USDA that the program should be renamed to reflect its modernization, reforms and current thrust.

In conclusion, the 2007 Farm Bill should include significant new investments in the Food Stamp Program to renew the nation's effort to eradicate hunger and food insecurity and improve the nutrition, health and learning of all our people, and especially children. The increased investments would pay dividends in good child development, child health, school achievement, a more productive work force, and greater economic security for America's rural, urban and suburban families.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate this opportunity to share our views on the 2007 Farm Bill and look forward to continued work with you and the Committee as the process moves forward.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

## STATE OF THE UNION

**Successes: A Government Reform That Worked**By Jerry Hagstrom, *National Journal*

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In the 1980s, conservatives regaled audiences with tales of welfare mothers in pink Cadillacs who sold their food stamps to unscrupulous retailers for cash that they spent on drugs and liquor. Then-Sen. **Jesse Helms**, R-N.C., called the program a "multibillion-dollar shakedown of the American taxpayers." In 1994, then-House Minority Leader **Newt Gingrich**, R-Ga., proposed in his Contract With America that states take over the food stamp program.

Republicans backed away from Gingrich's plan to end federal food stamps, and so the government was able to act quickly to help the millions of people who were displaced in the worst natural disaster in American history, the hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, and Rita in 2005. In the past 20 years, the program's rates of fraud and abuse have dropped dramatically with the shift from coupons to electronic benefit transfer cards, which are used like debit cards in grocery stores and are difficult to turn into cash.

The food stamp program's basic job is to help the lowest-income people in the country buy food. But the 1988 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act gave the Agriculture Department, which administers the program, authority to provide food stamps to disaster victims even if they are not poor. Before the hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, the disaster-response team in USDA's Food and Nutrition Service was watching the weather and sending food to warehouses in Louisiana and Texas. USDA later airlifted infant formula, baby food, and other commodities to Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. But as important as these supplies were in the initial days when grocery stores were closed, most hurricane victims got food for the next three months through EBT cards that Agriculture Secretary **Mike Johanns** authorized within days of the tragedy. Because the cards work in any grocery store in the country that cooperates with the food stamp program, hurricane victims could use the cards wherever they ended up. When the benefits ran out, the Agriculture Department could add more money to the cards electronically without having to use the mails.

"In the federal response to this national catastrophe, there is a bright spot," Sen. **Patrick Leahy**, D-Vt., a former Senate Agriculture Committee chairman, said on the Senate floor even as the Federal Emergency Management Agency was coming under fire. "USDA has quietly and efficiently assisted thousands of displaced persons."

Food stamps' strong performance on the Gulf Coast was perhaps the first and most visible step in the rehabilitation of the program's reputation. In

**10 Successes, 10 Challenges****Successes**

Two-Year Colleges

Cleaner Air

Food Stamps

Assimilation

Entrepreneurs

China, India

Young Soldiers

Charity

AIDS

Foreign Investors

**Challenges**

Traffic

Consumerism

Drug Abuse

Dead Zones

Income Inequality

Mental Illness

Latin America

Housing

State Pensions

October 2006, the Government Accountability Office said that as the use of electronic cards became universal between 1995 and 2005, the level of trafficking -- the sale of food stamps for cash -- declined from 3.8 cents per dollar in benefits to 1 cent per dollar. At the same time, according to USDA, the state agencies that determine eligibility and distribute the benefits have become so much more efficient in certifying eligibility that the payment error rate has gone down from 10.7 percent in 1998 to 5.48 percent in 2005.

### Anti-Americanism

Politics created and saved food stamps. Congress established the permanent food stamp program in 1964 not just to help poor Americans but also to get an increasingly urban- and suburban-dominated Congress to vote for a farm bill. In 1995, then-House Agriculture Committee Chairman (and now Sen.) **Pat Roberts**, R-Kan., saved food stamps by convincing Gingrich and other leaders that urban members wouldn't vote for future farm bills if they didn't reauthorize food stamps. The 1996 welfare reform law eliminated eligibility for almost all legal immigrants and able-bodied, childless adults between the ages of 18 and 50, and participation plummeted from 28 million in 1994 to 17.5 million in 2000. Subsequent bills have restored eligibility for most immigrants who have been in the country for five years.

**Jim Weill**, executive director of the Food Research Action Center, says that the food stamp program has become more important than ever because the number of Americans with low-paying jobs has grown. He sees the 2007 farm bill as an opportunity to raise the food stamp benefit, which is less than \$1 per meal, and to give USDA authority to provide food stamps to disaster victims for up to a year.

Weill will have to contend with budget pressures, but food stamps are much less vulnerable to attack than they were in the past. Agriculture Secretary Johanns, a former Republican governor of Nebraska, sent an e-mail of praise: "The food stamp program effectively provides vital nutrition assistance to over 26 million low-income individuals and families with dignity and respect. I am especially proud of our talented and dedicated USDA Food and Nutrition Service staff who work tirelessly to provide life-sustaining resources to all those impacted by Hurricane Katrina."

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**Washington, D.C. – February 26, 2007. America's Second Harvest--The Nation's Food Bank Network, the Food Research and Action Center, the leading national anti-hunger advocacy organization, and the American Public Human Services Association, the nation's principal association of state and local government human services professionals, join together in urging the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to make substantial improvements in the Food Stamp Program in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill.**

**The changes we recommend would expand program access, simplify program administration, and move benefit levels closer to adequacy for a healthy diet. Our three organizations believe that these changes are necessary to help the program better meet the needs of hungry people in the United States.**

The Farm Bill passed by the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress in 2002 made progress in simplifying the program for both recipients and caseworkers, in granting access and increasing benefits to certain needy households, and in reforming the system of measuring state performance. However, hunger and under nutrition in America remain serious problems, and more steps forward are needed in 2007.

We continue to be deeply concerned about the many people in our communities who are not consistently able to put food on their tables for themselves or their families. Indeed, the recent report "Food Security in the United States, 2005," published in November 2006 by USDA using data gathered by the U.S. Census Bureau, documents that more than 35 million people in the United States live in households that face a constant struggle against hunger.

The Food Stamp Program is the cornerstone of the nation's domestic food assistance programs and the largest non-categorical federal low-income support program. The Food Stamp Program serves an average of more than 26 million needy people in our country a month, yet fails to reach 40 percent of those eligible for the program, and also fails to reach other very needy people who are not even eligible in theory. The nation's first defense against hunger must be strengthened to reach all those who lack the resources to purchase an adequate diet.

The Food Stamp Program's rules can be further simplified and made more understandable for recipients and caseworkers. Such rule changes could foster participation and reduce administrative burdens that impose undue administrative costs and undermine the program's effectiveness. It is also essential that benefits be more adequate for a healthy diet. It is therefore a top priority of our three organizations that the 2007 Farm Bill makes significant progress in improving the program in the following ways:

- **Expand Access to the Program.** Too many people in our communities are in need of food stamps but cannot get them. The study “Hunger in America 2006,” published early last year by America’s Second Harvest, found that over 78 percent of people coming to pantries and other emergency food providers have income indicating food stamp eligibility, yet only 35 percent receive those benefits. Moreover, certain groups are excluded despite their need: poor working families with resources slightly in excess of terribly outdated program limits, many legal immigrants, and indigent jobless people seeking employment. Others, particularly the elderly, are discouraged by low benefit levels and resource limits. The elderly and disabled should also be granted nationwide access to “one-stop” programs, now available only in certain states, which automatically attach SSI recipients to food stamp benefits.
- **Continue to Simplify and Streamline the Program for Caseworkers and Clients.** While food stamp outreach and nutrition education are making important inroads, these efforts need more resources. Too many eligible people – especially working poor, elderly and disabled people – are missing out on benefits. Efforts to increase the proportion of eligible people who actually participate are hampered by shortfalls in federal supports to states for technology and administrative upgrades. The program’s rules should facilitate food stamp access to low-income people at nontraditional contact points in their communities, and additional funding should be available for states to develop the necessary technology. The program should provide positive support for state administrative efforts and should not impose new burdens that will make it more difficult for those in need to access benefits they are entitled to receive.
- **Improve Adequacy of Benefits.** Food stamp benefits are supposed to supplement families’ earnings, Social Security and other income so they can have a diet adequate for health and well-being. The government’s own studies of the inadequacies of the “Thrifty Food Plan” which is the basis of the food stamp allotment show its inadequacies. But millions of families also can testify personally to the inadequacies on a monthly basis when their resources for food run out. Everyone receiving food stamps must have adequate benefits to allow them to purchase a nutritionally adequate diet. Neither the average benefit level of \$1 per person per meal, nor the \$10 monthly minimum benefit, is sufficient. This dietary shortfall impairs recipients’ nutrition and health, and impedes the ability of children to learn and adults to work.

In addition, the transition from paper coupons to benefit delivery via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards has modernized the Food Stamp Program, eliminated the use of “food stamp” coupons, and provides an important opportunity to rename the program to reflect its modernization.

Our three groups will continue to work closely with each other and with Congress and the Administration as this year’s farm bill legislation progresses. We will issue more detailed statements about specific legislative proposals as they are developed.

It is essential that the 2007 Farm Bill address the pressing problem of hunger and the need for an adequate diet in a nation of plenty. It can best do so by ensuring a strong and accessible Food

Stamp Program. Thanks to its basic entitlement structure and non-categorical character, the program has been an extremely important support for tens of millions of Americans over the years and has been quickly responsive to increases in need when natural disasters or national economic trends have left more people in America vulnerable. Congress now has the opportunity to maintain its strength while making improvements that will bring further progress toward elimination of hunger in the United States.

###

For more information, contact:

Elaine Ryan, APHSA, 202-682-0100; [www.aphsa.org](http://www.aphsa.org)

Doug O'Brien, America's Second Harvest—The Food Bank Network, 312-263-2303,  
[www.seconharvest.org](http://www.seconharvest.org)

Ellen Vollinger, FRAC, 202-986-2200 x3016, [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)

## **Letter to Congress in Support of Strong Nutrition Title of the 2007 Farm Bill**

*Signers as of March 9, 2007*

As Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill this year, our top priority is a strong Nutrition title that reauthorizes and improves the Food Stamp Program, the nation's first defense against hunger, and bolsters the efforts of the emergency food assistance system. We strongly urge that the 2007 Farm Bill and the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution reflect those urgent national priorities.

Far too many people in our communities lack resources to put food on their tables consistently for themselves and their families. Indeed, the most recent Census Bureau/U.S. Department of Agriculture survey of food security documents that more than 35 million people in the United States live in households that face a constant struggle against hunger. It is absolutely essential that the 2007 Farm Bill address the pressing problem of hunger amidst plenty by strengthening the nation's food assistance programs.

The Food Stamp Program is a crucial and effective investment in meeting the urgent needs of seniors, people with disabilities, children, and low-income working and unemployed adults. It has nearly eliminated malnutrition from the national landscape and helps prevent the problem of hunger from becoming worse in our communities. Food Stamp Program participation closely tracks economic trends, responding quickly to increases in need, whether due to local or national economic circumstances or to disasters, as seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Food stamps help strengthen families and the American communities where those families reside—rural, urban and suburban. More than 80 percent of food stamp benefits go to families with children, allowing their parents to obtain food at grocery stores for meals at home. Much of the remainder goes to seniors and persons with disabilities. Through the nationwide use of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, program utilization has been streamlined for transactions for consumers and store clerks, and EBT has quantifiably reduced the chances of program abuse.

Food Stamps pay dividends for low-income consumers, food producers and manufacturers, grocery retailers and communities. As food stamp purchases flow through grocery checkout lines, farmers' markets and other outlets, those benefits generate almost double their value in economic activity, especially for many hard-pressed rural and urban communities desperately in need of stimulus to business and jobs.

The Food Stamp Program's basic entitlement structure must be maintained while greater resources are provided to the program to more effectively fight hunger in our communities. There are several key areas for program investment:

- **Adequacy of Benefits Must Be Improved.** The first step to reducing hunger in the U.S. is to ensure that everyone in the Food Stamp Program has the resources to assist them in purchasing and preparing a nutritionally adequate diet. Neither the average food stamp benefit level of \$1 per person per meal, nor the \$10 per household monthly minimum benefit is sufficient to help families purchase an adequate diet. This dietary shortfall negatively impacts recipients' health and nutrition and impedes the ability of children to learn and adults to work. Another key element to securing an adequate diet will be finding ways to improve access to affordable and healthful foods for food stamp households in low-income neighborhoods.
- **Access to the Program Must Be Expanded.** Too many people in our communities are in need of food stamps but cannot get them. Only 33 percent of the people in food bank lines are enrolled in food stamps. Those people in need of food but excluded from the Food Stamp Program include working poor families with savings slightly above decades-old and outdated resource limits, many legal immigrants, and numerous indigent jobless people seeking employment.
- **Program Simplification and Streamlining for Caseworkers and Clients Must Continue.** While food stamp outreach and nutrition education are achieving important advances, these efforts need more resources, and enrollments are hampered by shortfalls in state technology and supports. Too many eligible people—especially working poor and elderly persons—are missing out on benefits.

In addition to the necessary improvements to the Food Stamp Program, the 2007 Farm Bill also provides an opportunity to assist the front-line agencies that deal with the problem of hunger every day. The nation's food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens are stretched to serve more and more people whose food stamps have run out mid-month or whose income and resources put them just above the food stamp eligibility threshold. Currently, more than 25 million people are accessing emergency food annually through food banks. In any given week, some 4.5 million people access food through pantries and soup kitchens throughout the United States. Requests for emergency food assistance are outstripping the resources provided through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). In TEFAP alone, surplus commodity deliveries have declined more than 50 percent in the past year, at the same time that requests for emergency food have increased.

Therefore, we urge the 2007 Farm Bill and FY 2008 Budget to invest significant new resources to make food stamp benefit allotments sufficient to real world needs, to extend eligibility to more vulnerable populations, to connect more eligible people with benefits, and to adequately support emergency feeding programs.

We are fortunate to live in a nation with an abundant and varied food supply. In the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization, we strongly urge Congress and the Administration to help connect more vulnerable people with that food supply and move our communities and the nation as a whole closer to a hunger-free America.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

9to5, National Association of Working Women  
AARP  
AFL-CIO  
AFSCME  
Alliance to End Hunger  
American Dietetic Association  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
Americans for Democratic Action, Inc.  
America's Second Harvest-The Nation's Food Bank Network  
ANSA - Association of Nutrition Services Agencies  
Asian American Justice Center  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center  
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs  
Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies  
Association of Nutrition Services Agencies  
B'nai B'rith International  
Bread for the World  
CACFP National Professional Association  
Center for Economic Progress  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Church Women United  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Community Food Security Coalition  
Congressional Hunger Center  
EBT Industry Council of the Electronic Funds Transfer Association  
Families USA  
Fiscal Policy Institute  
Food Research & Action Center  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
Leadership for America's Children & Families  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Legal Momentum  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Migrant Legal Action Program

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association Diocesan Ecumenical Officers  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council on Aging  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National Puerto Rican Coalition  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
RESULTS  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sodexo Foundation  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
The AIDS Institute  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)  
United Jewish Communities  
United Way of America  
USAction  
Wider Opportunities of Women  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Women's Committee of 100  
World Hunger Year (WHY)  
YWCA USA

### **STATE AND LOCAL GROUPS**

#### **Alabama**

Association State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition  
Directors (ASTPHND)  
Alabama Coalition Against Hunger  
Bay Area Food Bank  
Early Childhood - The HIPPIY - Mobile Program  
Food Bank of North Alabama

#### **Alaska**

Alpha Omega Life Care Inc  
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation  
Food Bank of Alaska  
Homer Medical Clinic  
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank  
RESULTS-Anchorage

#### **Arizona**

Arizona Advocacy Network  
Arizona Community Action Association

Association of Arizona Food Banks  
Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona  
Community Food Bank, Inc.  
Foundation for Senior Living  
Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition  
South Eastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services  
United Food Bank

#### **Arkansas**

Arkansas Hunger Coalition  
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance  
River Valley Regional Food Bank  
St. Augustine Center for Children, Inc.

#### **California**

9to5 Bay Area  
Alameda County Community Food Bank  
Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency  
Beyond Shelter

CA Association of Food Banks  
Cal/Neva CAP Association  
California Association of Nutrition & Activity Programs  
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies  
California Church IMPACT  
California Commission on the Status of Women  
California Disability Community Action Network  
California Food Policy Advocates  
California Head Start Association  
California Hunger Action Coalition  
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)  
California Partnership  
California WIC Association  
Caminar  
Catholic Healthcare West  
Central Coast Hunger Coalition  
Citrus College Child Development Center  
Community Action Partnership Food Bank of San Bernardino Cty.  
Community Action Partnership of Kern Food Bank  
Contra Costa Child Care Council  
County Welfare Directors Association of California  
Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center  
Each One - Teach One, Inc.  
EarthWorks Enterprises  
Encinitas RESULTS Group  
Family Action of Sonoma County  
Family Service Association  
Farm to School Partnership  
Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County  
Food Bank for Monterey County  
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano  
Food Bank of Nevada County  
Food for People  
FOOD Share, Inc  
Fresno Cty Equal Opportunity Commission Head Start & Preschool  
Hardy Child Nutrition  
Hartnell College  
Health Education Consultant  
Healthy Living for You  
Hidden Harvest, Inc.  
Holy Family Community  
HRC Food Bank, Serving Calaveras County  
Hunger Action Los Angeles  
Imperial Valley Food Bank  
InsureVision Technologies  
Jewish Federation of Ventura  
Joining Hands-India, an Affiliate of the Presbyterian Hunger Program  
LABiomedical  
League of Women Voters for Riverside  
League of Women Voters of California  
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles 9to5  
Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness  
Los Angeles Community Action Network  
MarKrist Properties  
Montessori for Toddlers  
Mount St Joseph-St Elizabeth  
National Immigrant Solidarity Network/Action LA Coalition  
Older Women's League of California  
Parent Voices, El Dorado County  
Perpetua & Company  
Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California  
Piner Elementary School  
Redwood Empire Food Bank

## RESULTS

River City Community Services  
RPM International  
San Francisco Food Bank  
San Ysidro Health Center  
Second Harvest Food Bank  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County  
Senior Gleaners, Inc.  
St Jude Medical Center  
St. Joseph Health System  
St. Joseph Hospital  
State Public Affairs, CA, National Council of Jewish Women  
The South Group  
Urban Harvest  
Valley Oak Children's Services  
Ventura County Day Care Food Program  
www.robynrominger.com  
YMCA of the East Valley

## Colorado

9to5 Colorado  
All Families Deserve a Chance (AFDC) Coalition  
Bell Policy Center  
Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado  
Church & Society, Hope UMC  
Colorado Anti-Hunger Network  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition  
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute  
Colorado Progressive Coalition  
Denver Urban Ministries  
Growing Home  
Longmont Citizens for Justice and Democracy  
Metro CareRing  
Mile High United Way  
Posada  
RESULTS Colorado  
The Bell Policy Center  
Weld Food Bank

## Connecticut

3Angels Community Services  
ACCESS Community Action Agency  
ADRC  
AFSCME, Council 4  
Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich  
Center City Churches, Inc.  
Charter Oak Health Center  
CMH Nutrition, LLC  
Collaborative Center for Justice  
Community Dining Room  
Connecticut Association for Community Action  
Connecticut Association for Human Services  
Connecticut Dietetic Association  
Connecticut Food Bank  
Connecticut Food Policy Council  
CT Association of Nonprofits  
CT Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics  
CT Citizens Action Group  
CT General Assembly  
EHFT New Testament Helping Hand  
End Hunger Connecticut!  
Family & Children's Agency

First Church of the Living God  
First Presbyterian Church  
Foodshare  
Hartford Food System  
Hartford WIC Program  
HBC Food Pantry  
Human Services Council  
La Primera Iglesia De Dios  
Manchester Area Conference of Churches, Inc.  
Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation  
Middlesex Coalition for Children  
National Council of Jewish Women, CT Public Affairs  
New Horizon Food and Clothing Ministry  
Norwich Human Services  
Parkville Senior Center  
People of Faith CT  
Plymouth Community Food Pantry  
Shiloh Baptist Church  
St. Francis Hospital & Medical Center  
St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Bristol, Inc  
Stafford Family Services  
The Collaborative Center for Justice  
The Great Commission  
The Salvation Army  
Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group  
Together We Shine  
United Way of Greater Waterbury  
Warburton Church  
Warburton Food Pantry  
Wilson Congregational Church  
YWCA New Britain  
YWCA of the Hartford Region

#### **Delaware**

Community Legal Aid Society

#### **District of Columbia**

Bread for the City  
Capital Area Food Bank  
D.C. Hunger Solutions  
Fair Budget Coalition  
Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care

#### **Florida**

America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend  
Boca Helping Hands  
Center for Independent Living of South Florida  
Christian Alliance for Progress  
CILSF, Inc  
Florida Consumer Action Network  
Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Florida Impact  
Florida Legal Services  
Health Care Center for the Homeless  
Operation Provision, Capital City Christian Church  
P.A.N.D.O.R.A., Inc.- Patient Alliance for Neuroendocrineimmune Disorders Organization for Research & Advocacy  
Queen of Peace  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish  
The Cooperative Feeding Program  
YWCA of Palm Beach County

#### **Georgia**

Atlanta 9to5  
Atlanta Community Food Bank  
Citizens Against Violence, Inc.

City of College Park  
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness  
Georgia Rehabilitation Outreach, Inc.  
Georgia Rural Urban Summit  
Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence  
Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center  
Polk County Women's Shelter  
The Links, Brunswick Chapter  
YWCA

#### **Hawaii**

The Waimaha/Sunflower Residents' Association Inc.

#### **Idaho**

Idaho Community Action Network  
Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger  
The Idaho Foodbank  
United Vision for Idaho  
Weeks and Vietri Counseling  
YWCA of Lewiston ID-Clarkston WA

#### **Illinois**

B V  
BJBE Sisterhood  
Brain Injury Association of America  
C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation  
Chicago Jobs Council  
Child Support in Illinois  
Citizen Action Illinois  
First Church of the Brethren  
Gateway Coalition  
Greater Chicago Food Depository  
Griffin Center  
Habitat for Humanity of Illinois  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Illinois Community Action Association  
Illinois Hunger Coalition  
Lady of Charity  
Lake County Center for Independent Living  
Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation - Sisters of St.  
Joseph of La Grange, IL and Wheeling, WV  
People's Resource Center  
Project IRENE  
Saratoga School  
Sisterhood Temple Anshe Sholom  
Society for Nutrition Education  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Work Welfare & Families  
Young Women's Christian Association  
YWCA of Alton

#### **Indiana**

Anderson First Friends Food Pantry  
Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc.  
Feeding Indiana's Hungry  
Holy Cross  
Huffer Memorial Children's Center  
Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues  
Lafayette Urban Ministry  
Lighthouse Ministries  
Open Door/BMH Health Center  
Orange County Child Care  
Purdue University  
REAL Services  
Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood  
Wabash County Council on Aging  
YWCA of Evansville, Indiana  
YWCA of Fort Wayne  
YWCA of Lafayette

### **Iowa**

Black Hawk County Health Dept.  
Catholic Charities  
Christian Worship Center  
Community Action Agency of Siouxland  
Council on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence  
Crisis Intervention Services of Mahaska County  
Domestic Violence Intervention Program  
Food Bank of Iowa  
Iowa Citizen Action Network  
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Iowa Coalition for Housing & the Homeless  
National Association of Social Workers - Iowa Chapter  
Noble Photography, INC  
Northeast Iowa Food Bank  
Phoenix House  
Presbytery of Des Moines  
Primary Health Care  
RESULTS Des Moines  
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, IA  
Southwest Iowa Latino Resource Center  
Vera French Housing Corporation  
Waypoint Services  
YWCA

### **Kansas**

100 Good Women  
Adorers of the Blood of Christ  
BBBS of Cowley County  
Bonner Springs Elementary School  
Breakthrough  
Breakthrough Club of Sedgwick County  
Carney House Painting  
Carol's Day Care  
Catholic Social Service  
Children, Grandparents & Kinship Care  
City of Abilene  
Department of Pediatrics  
Department of Sociology & Social Work, Fort Hays State University  
El Centro, Inc.  
Emmaus House, Inc.  
Family Service & Guidance Center  
First Pres. Church  
Futures  
Great Plains Earth Institute  
Inter-Faith Ministries' Campaign To End Childhood Hunger  
Johnson County Housing Services  
Johnson County, Human Services & Aging  
Kansas Action for Children  
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Kansas City Kansas Public Schools  
Kansas Food Bank  
Kansas Food Security Task Force  
Kansas Health Consumer Coalition  
Kansas National Organization for Women  
Kansas Parish Nurse Ministry  
KU Children's Center  
KU Pediatrics  
LINK, Inc.

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church  
Marshall County Health Department  
Maternal and Child Health Coalition  
Maternal Child Health Coalition of Greater KC  
Open Arms Family Child Care  
Parents as Teachers  
Peace and Social Justice Center of South Central Kansas  
Rainbows United, Inc.  
Senior Services, Inc. of Wichita  
Shawnee County Community Corrections  
Sisters of St. Joseph Justice and Peace Center  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita  
Smart Start of Saline County  
Social Justice Office, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth  
Spring Hill Civic Center  
St. Paul's United Methodist  
Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County  
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library  
True Blue Women  
United Methodist Open Door  
United Methodist W. KS Mex Am. Ministries  
University of Kansas  
Western District Conference  
Yard of Plastic  
YWCA of Topeka  
YWCA Wichita

### **Kentucky**

Big Sandy Area Development District  
Community Farm Alliance  
Dare to Care Food Bank  
First Church of God Food Pantry  
God's Pantry Food Bank  
H.O.P.E., INC  
Heaven's Harvest  
Kentucky Task Force on Hunger  
WestCare Kentucky  
Women Infant and Children, KY Dept. of Public Health  
YouthBuild Louisville

### **Louisiana**

Archdiocese of New Orleans  
Avoyelles Head Start  
Bread for the World New Orleans  
Catholic Charities (Louisiana Family Recovery Corps.)  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans  
Crescent House  
Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans  
Family Service of Greater New Orleans  
Food for Families  
Harry Tompson Center  
HIPPPY Program  
Jesuit Volunteer Corp: South  
Kingsley House  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)  
LUNCH Program

### **Maine**

Aroostook County Action Program  
Community Partners in Ending Hunger: Old Town area  
GIFT Grace Interfaith Food Table  
Healthy Living  
Hope Haven Gospel Mission  
Maine Center for Economic Policy  
Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

Maine Equal Justice Partners  
Maine People's Alliance  
Methodist Conference Home, Inc  
Neighbor's Cupboard  
Owls Head Central School  
Partners in Ending Hunger  
Portland West, Inc.  
Project FEED, Inc.  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
SP Food Cupboard  
The Residential Care Consortium  
United for a Fair Economy  
Waterville Area Bridges for Peace & Justice

### **Maryland**

GUIDE Youth Services  
Manna Food Center  
National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter  
Pax Christi Montgomery County  
Progressive Maryland  
Public Justice Center  
Stepping Stones Shelter  
Through The Kitchen Door International, Inc.  
Upper Shore MD WIC

### **Massachusetts**

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.  
American Red Cross  
Arise for Social Justice  
ARTichoke Food Cooperative  
Boston Medical Center - Medical-Legal Partnership for Children  
Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program  
Community Action  
Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS)  
Community Advocates of Cape Cod  
Community Connections  
Community Partners  
Fans With Cans  
First Call for Help Hampshire County  
HomeStart, Inc  
Jewish Federation of Western MA  
Kids Project  
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
MIRA Coalition  
Parent Child Development Center  
Project Bread-The Walk for Hunger  
Project Hope  
Rosie's Place  
Somerville Homeless Coalition  
South Coastal Counties Legal Services  
South Middlesex Legal Services, Inc.  
Stavros Center for Independent Living  
The Congregational Church of Topsfield, MA  
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
The Open Door/Cape Ann Food Pantry  
Western Massachusetts Legal Services, Inc.

### **Michigan**

American Red Cross  
Ann Arbor RESULTS  
Barry-Eaton District Health Department  
Bay City Head Start  
Center for Civil Justice  
Community Action House

Community Housing Alternatives  
Covert Public Housing Commission  
Do-All, Inc  
Economic Justice Commission  
Elder Law of Michigan, Inc.  
Emmaus House of Saginaw, Inc.  
Food Bank Council of Michigan  
Gleaners Community Food Bank  
Hamilton Community Health Network  
Housing Services for Eaton Co  
Ionia Housing Commission  
Iron Mountain Housing Commission  
Katherine's Catering, Inc.  
Leadership Team Sisters of Mercy Detroit  
Madison Property Company  
Michigan Citizen Action  
Michigan League for Human Services  
Michigan State University Extension  
Mid Michigan Community Action Agency  
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit Section  
North East Michigan Community Service Agency - Head Start  
Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization  
RESULTS, Kalamazoo, MI  
Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission  
SOS Community Services  
The Bottle Crew  
The Corner Health Center  
The Disability Network  
United Way of Midland County

### **Minnesota**

CAER  
Community Emergency Service  
Dorothy Day Food Pantry  
Erickson Rehab Services  
Family Pathways  
Four Crosses Lutheran Parish  
Freeborn Co. Public Health  
Grace Lutheran  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Advisory Committee  
Long Prairie Emergency Food Pantry  
Minnesota Children's Platform Coalition  
Minnesota FoodShare  
NWCSA-WIC program  
Providers Choice  
Residents for Affordable Housing  
Second Harvest Heartland  
Second Harvest North Central Food Bank  
Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank  
St. Luke's  
Tri-Community Food Shelf  
YWCA of Minneapolis

### **Mississippi**

MS Human Services Coalition  
Public Policy Center of Mississippi

### **Missouri**

CSJ  
Daughters of Charity  
Daughters of Charity-St. Louis  
Daviess County Health Dept  
East Missouri Action Agency, Inc.  
Gatekeepers of KC

Higbee Senior Citizens Center  
Institute for Peace and Justice  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
Maternal and Child Health Coalition of Greater Kansas City  
Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition  
Missouri Association for Social Welfare  
Missouri Budget Project  
Northside Senior Citizen Center  
RESULTS St. Louis  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province  
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood  
Southside Welfare Rights Organization  
Start Talking In Kansas City  
The SCORE Foundation  
Truman Medical Centers

### **Montana**

Child Care Partnerships  
Child Care Resources  
Human Resources Council, District XII  
McArthur Consulting  
Missoula Aging Services  
Montana Food Bank Network  
Montana People's Action / Indian People's Action  
Plentywood, Redstone, and Scobey United Methodist Churches

### **Nebraska**

Action for Healthy Kids  
Building Strong Families Fun  
Center for People in Need  
Columbus Community Hospital  
Family Service WIC Program  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Community  
Nebraska Advocacy Services, Inc.  
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest  
Western Community Health Resources  
YWCA Grand Island

### **Nevada**

American College of Nurse-Midwives, Dist., Chapter 20  
Berkley and Associates  
Food Bank of Northern Nevada  
Nevada Desert Experience  
Nevada Public Health Foundation  
People of Faith for Social Justice  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

### **New Hampshire**

American Friends Service Committee - NH  
Children's Alliance of New Hampshire  
Disabilities Rights Center, Inc.  
Immigrants' Rights Task Force  
Morning Star Martial Arts  
Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter  
New Hampshire Citizens Alliance

### **New Jersey**

Association for Children of New Jersey  
Center for Food Action in NJ, Inc.  
Community FoodBank of NJ  
Community Outreach Group  
Freehold Area Open Door,, Inc.  
Housing Community Development Network of NJ  
Mercer Street Friends Food Bank  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Anti-Hunger Coalition  
Migration and Refugee Services Diocese of Trenton

New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition  
New Jersey Citizen Action  
Reflection of God Ministry  
Reformation Food Pantry  
St. Anthony's Social Justice Group  
Stelton Baptist Church  
Tabatchnick Fine Foods, Inc.  
The Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton  
The NJ Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

### **New Mexico**

2nd Harvest Roadrunner Food Bank  
Casas de Vida Nueva  
Central United Methodist Church  
Democracy for New Mexico  
Hunger and Poverty Network of Northern New Mexico  
Navajo United Methodist Center  
New Mexico Association of Food Banks  
New Mexico PACE  
New Mexico Voices for Children  
NM Center on Law and Poverty  
NM Task Force to End Hunger  
RESULTS-Santa Fe

### **New York**

Albany Damien Center  
Alianza Dominicana  
Bethel Sunshine Camp  
Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church  
Blanche Memorial Church  
Brooklyn AIDS Task Force  
Burke Adult Center  
Caring Hands Soup Kitchen @ Clinton Ave United Methodist Church  
Cathedral Emergency Services  
Cathedral Social Service  
Catholic Charities Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga Counties Justice and Peace Ministry  
Catholic Charities Diocese of Brooklyn & Queens  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany  
Cattaraugus County Women Infant Children's Program  
Central Harlem Sobering Up Station  
Central New York/Utica Citizens in Action  
Chenango County Catholic Charities  
Chiz's Heart Street  
Christ Church Food Pantry  
Church of God Feeding The Hungry  
Church of St. Vincent de Paul  
Citizen Action of New York  
Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church  
Clinton County WIC Program  
ComLinks, Community Action Partnership  
Community Caring Food Pantry  
Community Food Pantry  
Coney Island Hospital WIC Program  
Copes Network Center Inc  
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County  
Council of Jewish Orgs of Staten Island  
CypressHills Child Care Corp.  
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen  
Elohim Community Development  
Emergency Food & Shelter Program  
Empire Justice Center  
Family of Woodstock, Inc.  
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies  
Food Bank Association of NYS

Food Bank For New York City  
Food Bank of Central New York  
Food For All  
Food Pantries for the Capital District  
FoodChange  
Fox House  
Friendly Hands Ministry  
Full Gospel Tabernacle/Bedstuy Campaign Against Hunger  
GardenShare  
Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo  
Haber House Senior Center  
Hamilton County Community Action Agency  
Hands Across Long Island  
Hands On New York, Inc.  
Harlem Tenants Council  
Health & Welfare Council of Long Island  
Helping Hands Food Pantry  
Holy Cross Head Start  
Homeless Alliance of Western New York  
Hoosick Area Food Closet  
Hope Center Development Corporation  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Food Pantry  
Interfaith Food shelf  
Island Harvest  
Jewish Family Services of Ulster County  
Journey To Life Center  
Journey to Life Ministries  
Justice & Peace Office-Catholic Charities  
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House  
Linger Tours  
Living Resources  
Love Reaches Out Food Pantry  
Meals on Wheels of Syracuse, New York Inc.  
Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Inc.  
Neighbors Together  
New Jerusalem Community  
New York City Coalition Against Hunger  
Nutrition Consortium of NYS  
Nutritional Counseling Service  
NYC Coalition Against Hunger  
NYS Coalition for the Aging, Inc.  
Orleans Community Action Committee/Child Care Resource & Ref  
Pearl River SDA Church Food Program  
Pro Action of Steuben and Yates Inc  
Project Hope Food Pantry  
Queens North Community Center  
Reach Out Food Pantry  
Reaching-Out Community Service  
Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York  
Rescue Ministries Inc.  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
Secular Franciscan Order  
Sisterhood of Temple Beth Am  
Society of Jesus, NY Province  
Solidarity Committee Capital District  
St Augustine Food Pantry  
St. Andrews Mission Food Pantry  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen  
St. Paul's Food Pantry  
St. Rose Food Pantry  
Stapleton U.A.M.E. Church  
The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families  
The Father's Heart Ministries  
The HopeLine

The Poughkeepsie Farm Project  
The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York  
The Salvation Army  
The WIC Association of NYS, Inc.  
Tompkins County WIC New York  
Town of Colonie Senior Resources  
Ulster County Department of Social Services  
United Way of New York State  
Urban Justice Center  
Village Temple Soup Kitchen  
West Side Campaign Against Hunger  
Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center  
Williams Enterprises  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Women of Reform Judaism of Temple Beth EL  
Young Women's Christian Association of Cortland, NY  
YWCA Elmira and the Twin Tiers  
YWCA of the Adirondack Foothills  
YWCA Syracuse & Onondaga County  
YWCA Troy-Cohoes  
YWCA-WNY

### **North Carolina**

Angier Food Pantry  
Association for Learning Disabled and Handicapped  
Brooks Ave. Church of Christ  
Building HOPE Ministries  
Catholic Parish Outreach Food Pantry  
Catholic Parrish Outreach  
Chatham County Group Home  
Child Evangelism Fellowship  
Christian Fellowship Home  
Coastal Community Action, Inc.  
Deliverance Church Food Pantry  
Emmanuel Temple  
Faith Hope Deliverance Christian Center  
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina  
Fuquay Varina Emergency Food Pantry  
God's Vision Ministries, Inc.  
Halifax-Warren Smart Start  
Leak Street Cultural Center  
Legal Services of Southern Piedmont  
Merry Grove Baptist Church  
Ministries of the Bread of Life  
Mission Raleigh  
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard  
NC Justice Center  
New Hanover County Health Dept  
New Trinity Baptist Church  
New Vision Christian Church  
North Carolina Association of Local Nutrition Directors  
North Carolina Fair Share  
Onslow Community Ministries Soup Kitchen  
Passage Home, Inc.  
Potter Wheel  
Power of Praise Tabernacle of Deliverance  
Precious Blessings Outreach Ministries  
Salvation Army  
Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC  
Shiloh Child Care & Soup Kitchen  
Sisters of Mercy  
St. Brendan the Navigator Loaves and Fishes Pantry  
St. Brendan the Navigator Social Concerns Committee  
St. David's Episcopal Church

St. Joseph Catholic Church Outreach Ministries  
St. Mary Social Ministry Outreach  
The Advocacy for the Poor  
The Servant Center, Inc.  
Tri County Community Health Center WIC Program  
Urban Ministries of Wake County  
Volunteers of America - Willow Pond  
Wendell United Methodist Church  
Word of God Fellowship  
Works for Christ Christian Center  
YWCA of the Greater Triangle

### **North Dakota**

1st Presbyterian Church  
ABLE  
Carrington's Daily Bread  
Central Dakota Ministerial Food Pantry  
Community Action Program Region VII, Inc.  
Community Action Region VI  
Community Emergency Food Pantry  
Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency  
Family Recovery Home  
Great Plains Food Bank  
Hazen Food Pantry  
Hillsboro Food Pantry  
HIT, Inc.  
Lansford Food Pantry  
Living Waters Family Worship Center  
Lutheran Disaster Response/Lutheran Social Services ND  
McLean Family Resource Center  
MHA/Fargo Social Club  
Minot Community Supper  
Minot Housing Authority  
Nokomis Child Care Centers I & II  
North Dakota People.Org  
Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry  
Parshall Resource Center  
Red River Valley Community Action  
Richland Wilkin Emergency Food Pantry  
SENDCAA  
SMP Health System  
The Episcopal Church  
The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry & Taste of Heaven Soup Kitchen  
The Salvation Army  
Women's Action and Resource Center  
YWCA Cass Clay  
Zion Lutheran Church

### **Ohio**

American Association of Service Coordinators  
Call to Renewal of Summit County  
Catholic Charities  
Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.  
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio  
Council on Older Persons  
Cuyahoga County WIC Program  
Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs  
Faith Ministries Food Pantry  
First Congregational UCC  
Goodwill Industries of Lorain County  
Hamilton Living Water Ministry, Inc.  
Hitchcock Center for Women, Inc.  
LaGrange Lions Community Foundation  
Lutheran Social Services  
Management Assistance for Nonprofit Agencies

Mid-Ohio Food Bank  
Miller Avenue United Church of Christ  
Neighborhood Housing Association  
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks  
Ohio Empowerment Coalition  
Ohio Jewish Communities  
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy  
Padua Center  
Plymouth-Shiloh Food Pantry  
Primed Physicians  
Project Hope  
Results-Columbus  
Sanctuary Community Action  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Ohio  
Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio  
Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley  
Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, Ohio  
Southview Baptist Church Food Pantry  
St. Rita Hunger Program  
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry  
The Center for Community Solutions  
The Foodbank, Inc.  
The Love Center Food Cupboard  
Toledo Area Ministries  
Toledo NW Ohio Food Bank  
Young Women's Christian Association of Hamilton  
YWCA Eastern Area  
YWCA Great Lakes Alliance  
YWCA of Alliance  
YWCA of Greater Cincinnati  
YWCA of Hamilton  
YWCA of Salem

### **Oklahoma**

Osage Monastery  
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

### **Oregon**

American Association of University Women of Oregon  
Children First for Oregon  
Community Action Directors of Oregon  
Community Information Center, Inc  
Congregation Beth Israel Sisterhood  
Marion Polk Food Share  
Non Profit Funding Solutions  
Oregon Action  
Oregon Food Bank  
Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force  
ROSE Community Development  
Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality  
Women's Rights Coalition

### **Pennsylvania**

Bernardine Center  
Borough of Leetsdale Fire Department  
Brethren Housing  
Carbon County, PA  
Catholic Charities  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg PA  
Catholic Social Services  
Central PA Food Bank  
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank  
Centre County Food Bank Network  
Chester County Cares  
Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley

Corner Cupboard Food Bank  
Ebenezer Church  
ECCM  
Enhanced Care Coordination Management  
Erie Tenant Council  
Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania  
Family Planning Council, Philadelphia  
Family Services of NW PA  
First Presbyterian Church of Towanda, Pa  
Five Barley Loaves Food Bank  
Friends Neighborhood Guild  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank  
GreyNuns of the Sacred Heart  
Hanover Hospital  
Health Promotion Council  
Hunger Nutrition Coalition of Bucks County PA  
Information & Referral of South Central Counties, Inc.  
JCCs Klein Branch  
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia  
JSPAN, Jewish Social Policy Action Network  
Just Harvest  
Lebanon County Christian Ministries  
Maternity Care Coalition  
Mision Santa Maria, Madre de Dios  
Montco Community Action Development Commission  
Montgomery Cty Community Action Development Commission  
Montour County Human Services  
Most Holy Trinity Church  
Nutrition Action Group, Huntingdon PA.  
PathWaysPA  
Pennsylvania Assn. of County Human Services Administrators  
Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center  
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children  
Philadelphia Health Management Corporation  
Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network  
Pocono Healthy Communities Alliance  
PrimeTime Health  
Rainbow Kitchen Community Services  
Rankin Christian Center  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast PA  
SHARE Food Program, Inc.  
Sisters of Mercy  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God  
Social Justice Committee, Wayne Presbyterian Church  
Trinity Soup Kitchen  
UBCA Community Trust for Family Life Improvement, Inc.  
United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Urban Nutrition Initiative  
Wayne County Food Pantry  
Westmoreland County Food Bank  
YMCA/YWCA of Hazleton  
YWCA of Hanover  
YWCA of Lancaster  
YWCA of Pottsville  
YWCA Philadelphia

### **Rhode Island**

CHA  
Farm Fresh Rhode Island  
George Wiley Center  
RI Ocean State Action  
University of Rhode Island

### **South Carolina**

AHEPA 284 II  
Calabash Associates of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany  
Chapin We Care Center  
Christian Ministry Center  
Clarendon County Disabilities & Special Needs Board  
Columbia Community Outreach  
Columbia Hope In Christ  
Friends United, inc.  
Grace Christian Ministries  
Greenville Quaker Meeting  
Harvest Hope Food Bank  
HOPE Worldwide, South Carolina  
International Praise COG  
Jehovah Jireh Outreach  
Kids Cafe WPC  
Loaves & Fishes  
Mt Pleasant Swansea Outreach  
Noisette Foundation  
Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services of South Carolina, Inc  
Richland Community Health Care Association, Inc.  
Saint John Baptist Church Food Pantry  
Samaritan House  
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center  
SHARE Community Action Partnership  
Sistercare Lexington Shelter I  
Sistercare Richland Shelter  
South Carolina Campaign to End AIDS (SC-C2EA)  
South Carolina Fair Share  
St. Ann Catholic Church  
YWCA of Greater Charleston

### **South Dakota**

South Dakota School-Age Care Alliance  
YWCA Sioux Falls

### **Tennessee**

MANNA  
Memphis Food Bank  
Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association  
Tennessee Citizen Action  
Tennessee Justice Center  
The Black Children's Institute of TN  
West Tennessee Legal Services

### **Texas**

Capital Area Food Bank of Texas  
Center on Public Policy Priorities  
Children at Risk  
Cooper Securities  
Covenant Health System  
Daughters of Charity  
DixieLand Advice and More  
East Texas Food Bank  
Food Bank of West Central Texas  
God's Army/Praying Women in Action  
La Fe Policy and Advocacy Center  
LifeOptions North Texas Food Bank  
RESULTS-Austin  
San Antonio Food Bank  
South Plains Food Bank  
Texas Food Bank Network  
United Way of San Antonio  
United Ways of Texas  
West Texas Food Bank

Williams-Russell & Johnson, Inc.  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Woodland City Alliance of Tenants

### **Utah**

Coalition of Religious Communities  
Crossroads Urban Center  
Disabled Rights Action Committee  
Peace & Justice Commission  
Primary Children's Medical Center  
Salt Lake Community Action Program  
Slow Food Utah  
The Anti-Hunger Action Committee  
The Golden Rule Mission  
Utah Community Action Partnership Association  
Utahns Against Hunger

### **Vermont**

132 main productions  
A Sense of Wonder Childcare  
Addison Central Supervisory Union  
Addison County Community Action Group  
Addison County Parent/Child Center  
AmeriCorps\* VISTA  
Another Way  
Applegate Housing Inc.  
ARC-Rutland Area  
Barton Senior Center  
Bellows Falls Community Garden  
Bennington Housing Authority  
Bike Recycle Vermont  
Burlington Currency Project  
Cafe Services  
Cathedral Church of St. Paul  
Central Vermont Community Action Council  
Central Vermont Council on Aging  
Champlain Valley Agency on Aging  
Champlain Valley OEO  
Child Care Resource  
Chittenden Community Action  
Community & Economic Development Office  
Community Health Center of Burlington  
Coordinate Statewide Housing Services of Champlain Valley  
Office of Economic Opportunity  
Darling Inn Senior Meal Site  
Deerfield Valley Food Pantry  
Early Childhood Council of Windham County  
Economic Services, Agency of Human Services, VT  
Episcopal Diocese of Vermont  
First Congregational Church of Christ  
Food Works  
Franklin County Senior Center  
Friends of Burlington Gardens  
Global Community Initiatives  
Grace's Kitchen  
Hand In Hand  
Hartford Housing Authority  
Healthy City Youth Farm  
Heineberg Senior and Community Center  
Highgate Non-Profit  
Hinesburg Community Resource Center-Foodshelf  
Housing Vermont  
Infant Child Guidance Program  
Interfaith Summer Lunch and Recreation, Middlebury  
Johnson Food Shelf

King Street Youth Center  
Lamoille Community Food Share  
Lamoille Valley Peer Navigator  
Laraway Youth & Family Services  
Learning Works  
Lunenburg / Gilman / Concord Senior Citizens Inc  
MacWorks  
Malletts Bay Congregational Church  
Marlboro School  
Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County  
Milton Family Community Center  
Montpelier Food Pantry  
Montpelier Housing Authority  
Montpelier Sr. Meals Program  
Morningside Shelter  
Mulberry Bush Early Learning Center  
Nativity/St.Louis Foodshelf  
North Country Coalition for Justice & Peace  
North East Kingdom Community Action  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)  
Northern Tier Center For Health  
Northgate Housing, Inc.  
Northgate Residents' Ownership Corp.  
Opportunities Credit Union  
Orange County Parent Child Center  
Our Place Drop-In Center  
Oxbow Senior Independence Program  
Parent/Child Center Network  
Parks and Recreation  
Peace & Justice Center, Vermont Livable Wage Campaign  
PeaceVermont  
People of Addison County Together  
Pittsford Foodshelf  
Project Against Violent Encounters  
Project Haiti VT  
Randolph Area Community Development Corporation  
Richford Health Center  
River Arts of Morrisville, INC  
Rock Point School  
Rockingham Area Community Land Trust  
Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter  
S. Burlington High School  
Salvation Farms  
Samaritan House, Inc.  
South Burlington High School  
South Burlington School District  
Spectrum Youth and Family Services  
Springfield Family Center  
Springfield Housing Authority  
Springfield School District  
St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church  
St. Francis of Assisi Church  
The DREAM Program, Inc.  
The Lamoille Family Center  
Umbrella  
United Church of Christ  
United Way of Bennington County  
United Way of Chittenden County  
United Way of Lamoille County  
United Way of Southern Windsor County  
University of Vermont Extension  
Vermont Achievement Center  
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition  
Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger

Vermont Center for Independent Living  
Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights  
Vermont Community Loan Fund  
Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Vermont Department of Health  
Vermont Dietetic Association  
Vermont FEED  
Vermont Foodbank  
Vermont Legal Aid, Inc.  
Vermont Parent Information Center  
Vermont Protection & Advocacy, Inc.  
V-Line Transportation, LLC  
Voices for Vermont's Children  
VT Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Warren United Church  
Washington County Youth Service Bureau, Boys & Girls Clubs  
Westgate Housing Inc.  
Windham Child Care Association  
Winooski Police Department  
Winooski Recreation Dept.  
Women Helping Battered Women, Inc.  
WomenSafe  
Woodbury Calais Food Shelf

### **Virginia**

Arlington Steering Committee for Services to Older Persons  
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center  
Bon Secours Health Systems  
Federation of Virginia Food Banks  
Foodbank of Southeastern VA  
Northwest Neighborhood Environmental Organization  
Virginia Community Action Partnership  
Virginia Poverty Law Center  
Voices for Virginia's Children

### **Washington**

AIDS Housing of Washington  
Americorps  
AskComplianceWiz  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Blue Mountain Action Council  
Bonney Lake Food Bank  
Carolyn Downs Family Medical Center  
Catholic Community Services  
Child and Family Advocate  
Children's Alliance  
Connect Nutrition  
Copalis Food Bank  
Council on Aging & Human Services  
Creative Solutions  
Emergency Food Network  
Families Unlimited Network  
Food Lifeline  
GH/PAC Dist. Center  
Greater Seattle Dietetic Association  
Harborview Medical Center  
Hood Canal Food Bank  
HopeSource  
Kids Northwest  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance  
Loon Lake Food Pantry  
Maple Valley Food Bank  
Meals Partnership Coalition  
MultiCare Health System  
Multi-Service Center

North Kitsap Fishline  
North Whidbey Help House  
Northwest Harvest  
Northwest Regional Council  
OlyCAP  
Olympic Community Action Programs  
OPERATION: Sack Lunch  
ReachOut Food Bank  
Rotary First Harvest  
Sea Mar Community Health Center  
Seattle Food Committee  
Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County  
Small Potatoes Gleaning Project  
Solid Ground  
South Sound Outreach Services  
St. James Family Center  
St. Vincent Center  
Statewide Poverty Action Network  
The Food Connection  
The Gleaners Coalition  
Thurston County Food Bank  
Toppenish Community Chest Food Bank  
University District Food Bank  
Volunteers of America Western Washington  
WA State Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition  
WA State Food and Nutrition Council  
Washington Association of Local WIC Agencies  
Washington Community Action Network  
Washington State Coalition for the Homeless  
Washington State Dietetic Association  
Washington State Farmers Market Association  
Western Region Anti-Hunger Consortium  
YWCA Wenatchee Valley

### **West Virginia**

Direct Action Welfare Group  
Harrison County Democracy for America  
Rosey Futures Social Work Services, Inc  
Statewide Independent Lining Council  
Ursuline Sisters  
Verizon Engineering  
West Virginia Citizen Action Group

### **Wisconsin**

16th St. Community Health Center WIC  
9to5 Poverty Network Initiative  
Caritas  
Citizen Action of Wisconsin  
Clark County DSS  
ECHO, Inc.  
EINPC  
ESA  
Hunger Prevention Council of Dane County Wisconsin  
Hunger Task Force  
Racine Dominicans  
St. Bede Monastery  
Wisconsin Community Action Program Association  
Wisconsin Council of Churches  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

### **Wyoming**

KT Consulting  
Wyoming Health Initiative  
St Thomas Episcopal Church

Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Required Witness Disclosure Form

House Rules\* require nongovernmental witnesses to disclose the amount and source of Federal grants received since October 1, 2004.

Name: James D. Weill  
Address: 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, #540, W, DC 20009  
Telephone: (202) 986-2200  
Organization you represent (if any): Food Research and Action Center

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract. House Rules do **NOT** require disclosure of federal payments to individuals, such as Social Security or Medicare benefits, farm program payments, or assistance to agricultural producers:

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) the organization has received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract:

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if this form is NOT applicable to you: X

Signature: James D. Weill

\* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(4) of the U.S. House of Representatives provides: *Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof. In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by any entity represented by the witness.*

PLEASE ATTACH DISCLOSURE FORM TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.

**JAMES D. WEILL**  
**President**  
**Food Research and Action Center**

Jim Weill has been President of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) since February 1998. FRAC is a research, public policy advocacy, outreach, public education, training and technical assistance organization committed to ending hunger in the United States. FRAC serves as the hub of an anti-hunger network of hundreds of state and local organizations and agencies. FRAC focuses on improving and expanding the reach of federal nutrition programs as well as other programs that support economic security and reduce hunger. Congress Daily has described FRAC as “the premier anti-hunger group in Washington.”

Jim has devoted his entire professional career to issues of hunger, economic security, income support programs, health insurance, and the legal rights of children and poor people.

Prior to joining FRAC, he was at the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) for 16 years, as Program Director and General Counsel, responsible for overseeing a range of projects, campaigns and publications, particularly in the areas of health reform and family economic security. He led CDF's efforts in 1985 that produced the first major expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, oversaw CDF's Medicaid expansion, child care, and child support enforcement reform efforts in the 1980s, and was a key leader of the campaign to pass the Children's Health Insurance Program in 1997.

Before CDF, Jim was Deputy Director and Director of Federal Litigation at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago. He litigated benefits cases in the federal court of appeals and Supreme Court on Social Security, Medicaid, AFDC, food stamps and other public benefits issues, as well as the rights of children born out of wedlock.

Jim is a member of the boards of OMB Watch, and the National Center for Youth Law, and advisory councils at Wider Opportunities for Women, the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families, and the Calvert Social Investment mutual funds. He served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the UNICEF Executive Board.

His undergraduate degree is from Cornell and law degree from New York University.