

# Feeding America The Food Bank Perspective

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# Hunger in America

## Hunger Statistics

- **“Food insecurity”** is the federal government’s own measure of risk of hunger or uncertainty about the source of the next meal.
- More than 36.2 million Americans were food insecure in 2007. - 12.4 million were children ( 16.9% of all children).
- Very low food security increased significantly (8.5 million Americans in 2000, 11.9 million Americans in 2007).
- Nearly 3.8 million more people got SNAP/food stamps in November 2008 than in November 2007.



# Feeding America

- Annually provides more than **2 billion pounds of food and grocery products** to **low-income Americans** at risk of hunger through a network of **205 food banks** that serve **63,000 food pantries, soup kitchens and other agencies**. Also provides food and groceries in times of disaster.



- Sources food from national food industry donors and distributes millions of dollars to fund:
  - food banks general operations, transportation costs, purchase initiatives and child nutrition and education programs.
- Federal government provides one fourth of food moved through food banks, but does not provide direct funds.

# The Feeding America Charitable Response



The Feeding America Network serves over **25 million Americans** annually through our Network.

- 9 million children
- 2.5 million seniors
- 36% of households have at least one adult who is employed
- 42% report having to choose between paying for food & paying for utilities
- 35% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage
- 32% had to choose between paying for food & paying for medicine/medical care

We are working on a new study that will be released in November-December of 2009 that will provide updated information on who we serve, why, and how many.



# Increased Need for Emergency Food

## Recent Survey Findings

Surveyed 160 food bank network members this fall and found:

- 100% reported increases in demand for emergency food assistance over the last year.
- When food banks were asked what were the most prominent contributors to increases in demand:
  - 91% cited rising cost of food
  - 90.5% cited increasing unemployment; 67% cited increasing underemployment
  - 63% cited the cost of fuel



# Addressing the Increase in Demand

## Recent Survey Findings (Cont'd)

- When food banks were asked what populations they and their agencies were seeing:

- 99.4% reported seeing more first-time users
- 74% reported seeing more newly unemployed persons
- 73% reported seeing increased need among existing clients (more repeat visits)
- 59% reported seeing more employed persons
- 48% reported seeing more children

72% of food banks do not feel as though they are able to adequately meet the needs of their communities without adjusting the amount of food distributed



# Strategic Efforts to Better Meet the Need

Feeding America recently underwent a strategic planning process aimed at helping us better serve hungry Americans.

Our goals between now and 2012 include:

- Provide access to food to one million more people each year.
- Work to increase participation in federal nutrition programs by at least 25%.



# Strategic Initiatives

Work toward achieving those outcomes will be done through:

- Increased product sourcing
- More effective distribution
- Boosting public awareness of hunger and Feeding America's work
- Capacity and capability development in our Network (food banks and agencies)
- Federal nutrition program outreach





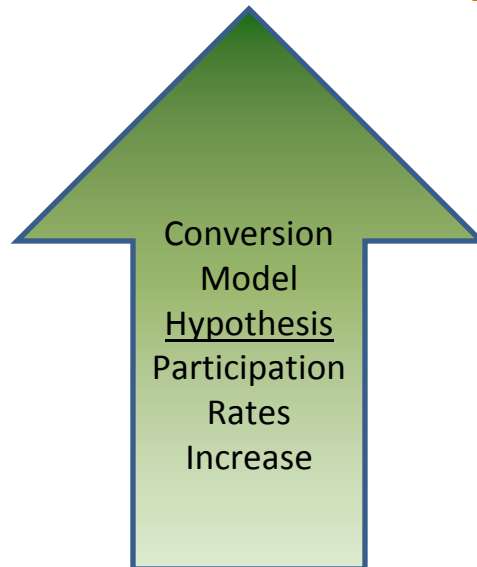
# SNAP/Food Stamp Outreach

## The Problem/Gaps

- Only 67% of people eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the “Food Stamp Program”) actually enroll in the program.
- A host of barriers exist: lack of awareness of eligibility, stigma, difficult application processes, transportation, etc.

## Two controllable areas in which we believe we can impact participation:

### *Food Bank Outreach Activity*



### *Food Stamp Friendly State Policies*



# SNAP Plan

- Work to Increase Participation in Federal Nutrition Programs by 25% (Board Outcome)
- Increase and leverage government resources (Sub-outcome)
  - Increase the rate of food banks engaged in SNAP outreach from 65% to 80%
  - Increase aggressive, moderate and entry level activities by 25%

Current Activity Level	Food Banks Participating (Current)	2012 Goal (25% increase)
<b>Aggressive Outreach</b> (more than three outreach activities)	53	66
<b>Moderate Outreach</b> (performing three outreach activities)	30	38
<b>Entry Level</b> (distributing information )	53	66
<b>No Outreach</b>	66	33



# SNAP Outreach Continued

## **Update**

- Feeding America selected 5 states for targeted assistance and advocacy (CA, NC, NJ, RI, and MD)

## **Activities**

- Providing technical assistance and develop outreach plans with food banks in 5 targeted states to increase the number of food banks included in state plans
- Influencing all states to adopt more options that positively impact enrollment in SNAP

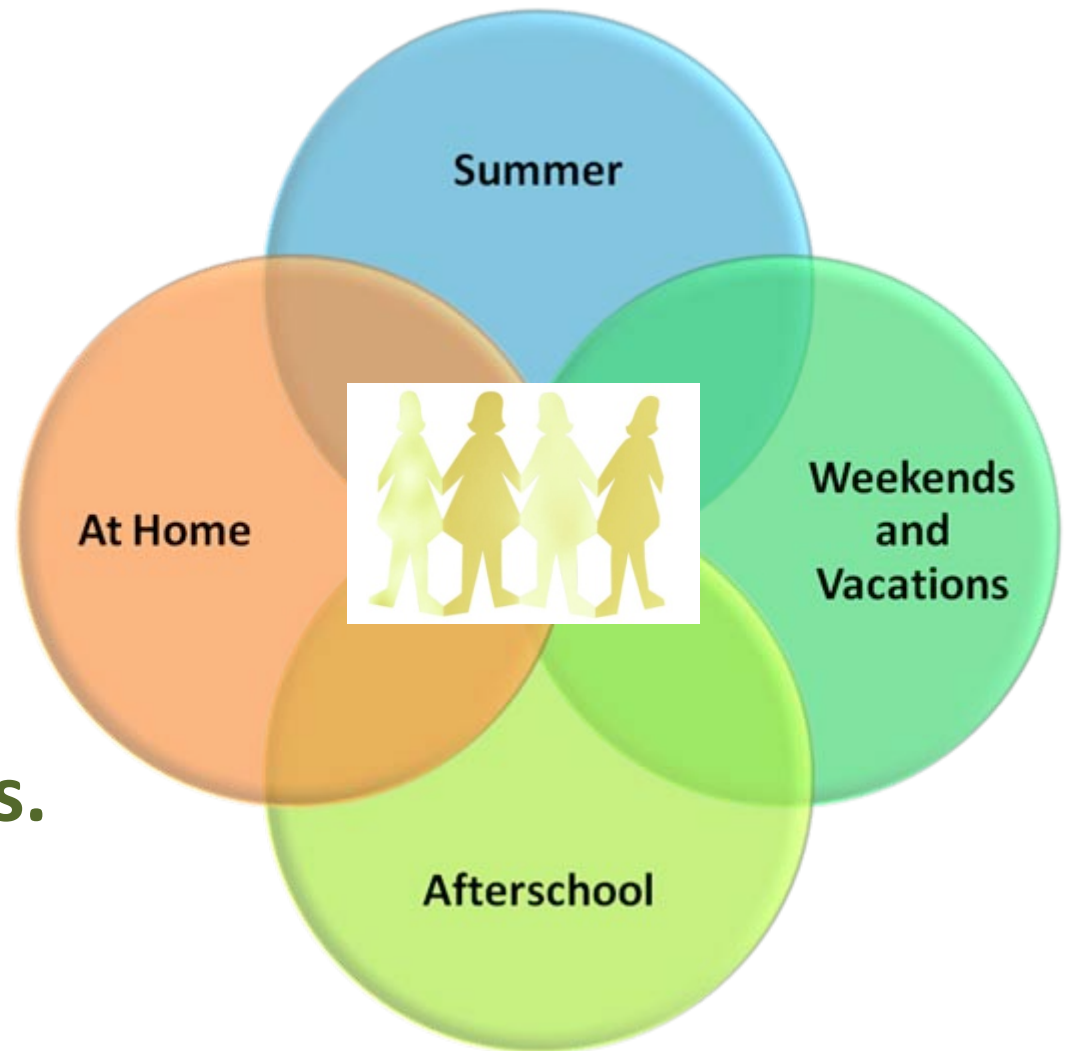
## **What Does Success Look Like?**

- An increase in adoption of the 12 state options (out of the 22 state options total) available that help increase access to the SNAP among the targeted states
- An increase in the number of states including food banks in their formal state SNAP outreach plans



# Child and Senior Hunger Strategy

**Increase access to meals for children in need through integration and expansion of emergency and programmatic services.**



# Child Nutrition Reauthorization

- Recommendations focused on feeding children in the summer, outside of school hours, and in school.
  - Further simplify participation in the SFSP
    - For example: Reduce the administrative burden on SFSP sponsors
  - Improve child feeding outside of school hours
    - For example: Expand Supper availability to additional states
  - Improve school feeding
    - For example: Ensure that reimbursement rates are adequate for provision of nutritious meals for both NSLP and SBP



# Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act

## Nutrition Program Highlights:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - \$19.9 billion for incremental SNAP spending
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
  - Additional funding of \$150 million for TEFAP.
- Other Nutrition Funding Benefiting Low-Income Americans
  - \$500 million for Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)
  - \$100 million for school food service equipment grants
  - \$100 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



# In Conclusion

- **Feeding America** strives to **end hunger now**, through emergency food distribution, while also **ending hunger tomorrow**, through boosting participation in federal nutrition programs like SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) and mobilizing the public.
- **Child hunger** is an area of serious concern and will serve as a focus for the Feeding America Network.

