

Task Force to End Student Hunger
Resolve 2013, chapter 107
October 6, 2014 - 9:30am to 3:30pm
Room 209, Cross Office Building, Augusta, ME

Agenda: Meeting #4

- 9:30 – 9:45** Welcome, *Senate Chair, Senate President Justin Alford and House Chair, Representative Victoria Kornfield*
- 9:45 – 11:30** Panel discussion with Maine's Congressional Delegation
- Rosemary Winslow, Office of Congressman Michael Michaud
 - Marge Kilkelly, Office of Senator Angus King
 - Bethany Beausang, Office of Congresswoman Chellie Pingree
 - Olivia Kurtz, Office of Senator Susan Collins
- 11:30 – 12:00** Public comment period
- 12:00 – 1:00** Lunch break
- 1:00 – 2:00** Panel discussion with school superintendents and representatives of at-risk after school programs
- Brent Colbry, Superintendent, MSAD 54
 - Leonard LeGrand, Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA Waterville at the Alford Youth Center
 - Paula Burke, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Gardiner
 - Patricia and Raymond Estabrook, The Game Loft, Belfast
- 2:00 – 3:30** Discussion of possible recommendations from the task force, organized in the format of a 3 to 5 year plan, with goals for each year

Note: Future meeting date - December 8.

**Duties of the Task Force to End Student Hunger
Resolve 2013, chapter 107**

- Meet a total of five times to:
 - Study issues associated with the creation of a public-private partnership to provide expertise to school administrative units throughout the State in adopting best practices and maximizing available federal funds for addressing student hunger;
 - Draft a 3 to 5 year plan outlining a ramp-up of school food programs throughout the state; and
 - Produce and submit a report no later December 9, 2014 that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, as well as actions that can be taken immediately, for presentation to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

The resolve directs the task force to use the following when studying issues associated with the creation of a public-private partnership to provide expertise to Maine schools on the adoption of best practices and the maximization of available federal funds for addressing student hunger:

- USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, National School Lunch Program;
- USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Child and Adult Care Food Program, At-Risk Afterschool Meals;
- USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Summer Food Service Programs; and
- The 4 privately funded hunger coordinators positioned in the Healthy Maine Partnership districts to encourage the use of school food programs.

From: Cahill-Low, Therese [<mailto:Therese.Cahill-Low@maine.gov>]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 3:02 PM
To: Schneider, Deirdre
Subject: RE: Information requests

These were the answers provided back in July

4. Please provide information on the number of students enrolled, number of meals served and the percentage of students eligible for at-risk after school meals through CACFP that participate in the programs (ADP). *DHHS All children are eligible for Free meals in At Risk centers Ages are usually 5-18.*

In April 2014: 11 Institutions reported an average of 521 school age children in 18 sites. 144 Breakfasts, 298 Lunches, 4632 Suppers and 6604 Snacks were served.

In May 2014: 11 Institutions reported an average of 553 school age children in 18 sites. 0 Breakfasts, 269 Lunches, 4871 Suppers and 6695 snacks were served.

5. Please provide information on the number of child care facilities that do not participate in CACFP and the number of children that attend those facilities. If possible please provide the number of children who attend those facilities with family incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level and the number with family incomes between 135% and 185% of the federal poverty level. *DHHS*

We have no way of ascertaining the number of At Risk facilities and children not served by CACFP. Licensing lists give us the number and names of homes and centers licensed in Maine- but do not necessarily help us know which centers or After care programs are At Risk Programs. Some At Risk programs may not need to be licensed.

Since At Risk facilities do not need to complete eligibility forms and are paid at the Free Rate, income guideline levels for families would not be available to us.

At Risk Program participation is based on whether or not the site is in a school area that has 50 % of the children eligible for Free or Reduced Price meals and many areas in Maine don't qualify. This is also a voluntary program. Some may decide not to participate because they operate year round, have a lack of staff and find the paperwork and recordkeeping too burdensome. We are working to expand At Risk with continued work with DOE and local partners like Aftercare networks, food banks, YMCA's, CACFP web sites, etc.

USDA Requests Applications for Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center

Grant will support strategies to reduce child food insecurity in rural communities

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22, 2014 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that up to \$2.5 million is available to establish the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center. This competitive grant is part of USDA's efforts to reduce childhood food insecurity in rural communities in America.

Trends show that both the overall rural poverty rate and the rural child poverty rate have exceeded rates in urban areas for over thirty years. In 2012, one out of every four children in rural areas lived in poverty, and 21.2 percent of rural households with children were food insecure. Deep poverty, defined by income that is below 50 percent of the poverty level (\$1,000 per month for a family of four in 2012) was a reality for one in eight rural children.

"The goal of the center is to reduce child food insecurity by improving access and coordination among child nutrition programs in up to 30 rural communities with persistently high poverty rates," Vilsack said. "Children living in persistently-poor, rural areas tend to experience worse outcomes in terms of nutrition, activity, and obesity. The Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center would facilitate innovative strategies to support a healthier next generation in rural America"

The center will develop, administer, and evaluate a series of sub-grants to improve services in these communities. The center will also organize several conferences to exchange lessons learned and develop a report on best practices. The rural communities will use their funds to target child food insecurity through greater coordination of the nutrition programs. For example, communities could use their funds to identify strategies to increase community involvement or to apply more effective uses of technology and digital media to improve program coordination.

This initiative is part of USDA's commitment to growing economies, increasing investments, and creating opportunities in poverty-stricken rural communities. Nearly 85 percent of America's persistent poverty counties are in rural areas. Through the USDA StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity, USDA has supported partnerships and projects in over 700 persistent poverty counties, parishes, boroughs, Colonias and tribal reservations. The USDA Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center will work cooperatively with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to issue sub-grants targeting persistently poor rural counties in the 15 states with the largest number of persistently-poor counties. This initiative will target all StrikeForce states, as well as Minnesota and Missouri.

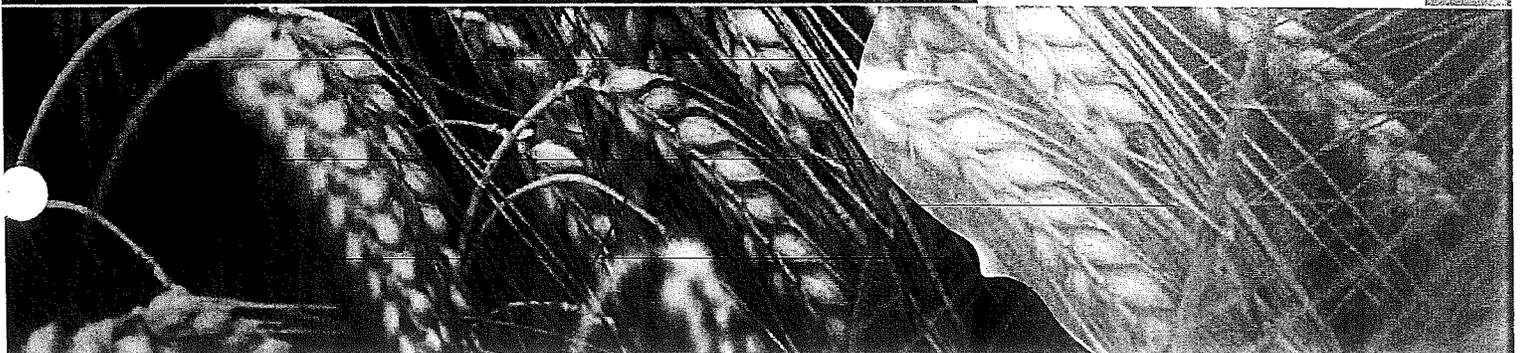
Accredited colleges and universities, as well as private and public research institutions are eligible to apply. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service will select one institution or organization for the award. A copy of the request and more information has been recently posted on www.fns.usda.gov/ops/research-and-analysis and www.grants.gov.

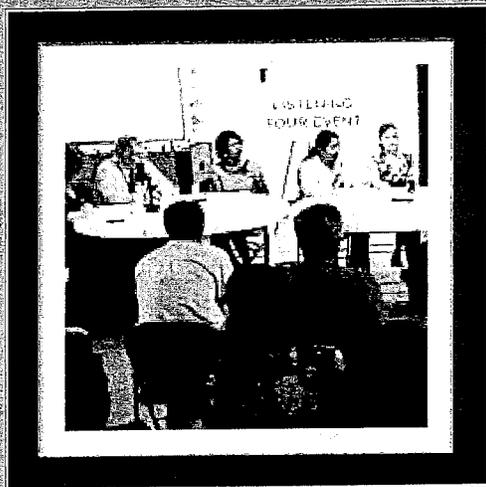
FNS administers 15 nutrition assistance programs. In addition to the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs, the largest of these programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. For more information, visit www.fns.usda.gov.



COMMISSION *to*
END HUNGER

2012
REPORT





*“Any day you can look at our waiting lines outside
or at our lobbies and see a reflection of the community.
Our clients are children, they’re elderly, they’re disabled,
they’re the working poor, they’re definitely the new poor,
and they’re people who are living on the
edge of financial security.”*

KIM ADAMS-BAKKE, Executive Director, Rock River Valley Pantry, speaking at the Rockford event.



LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMISSION TO END HUNGER

To the Citizens of Illinois:

As you read this letter, over 1.8 million of our fellow Illinoisans do not know when or where their next meal might come from. On behalf of them, close to 745,000 of whom are children, we and our fellow members of the Commission to End Hunger present this report.

The Commission was created by legislation in 2010 to create a statewide action plan to measurably reduce hunger in Illinois. We believe that no man, woman or child should ever be faced with hunger and applaud the work of all of those who took part in the Commission's meetings and listening tour events, lending their experiences and expertise to guide the report's goals and recommendations.

The effects of hunger are being felt in every county of Illinois and will have significant impact on the health and economic well-being of our residents for years to come. As we traveled Illinois, three major themes emerged to guide the goals and recommendations for the state. We must:

- Improve participation in all federal and state nutrition assistance programs;
- Increase utilization of successful, innovative models; and
- Improve access to quality nutritious foods.

Based on these themes and the Commission's discovery process, we are recommending the following goals:

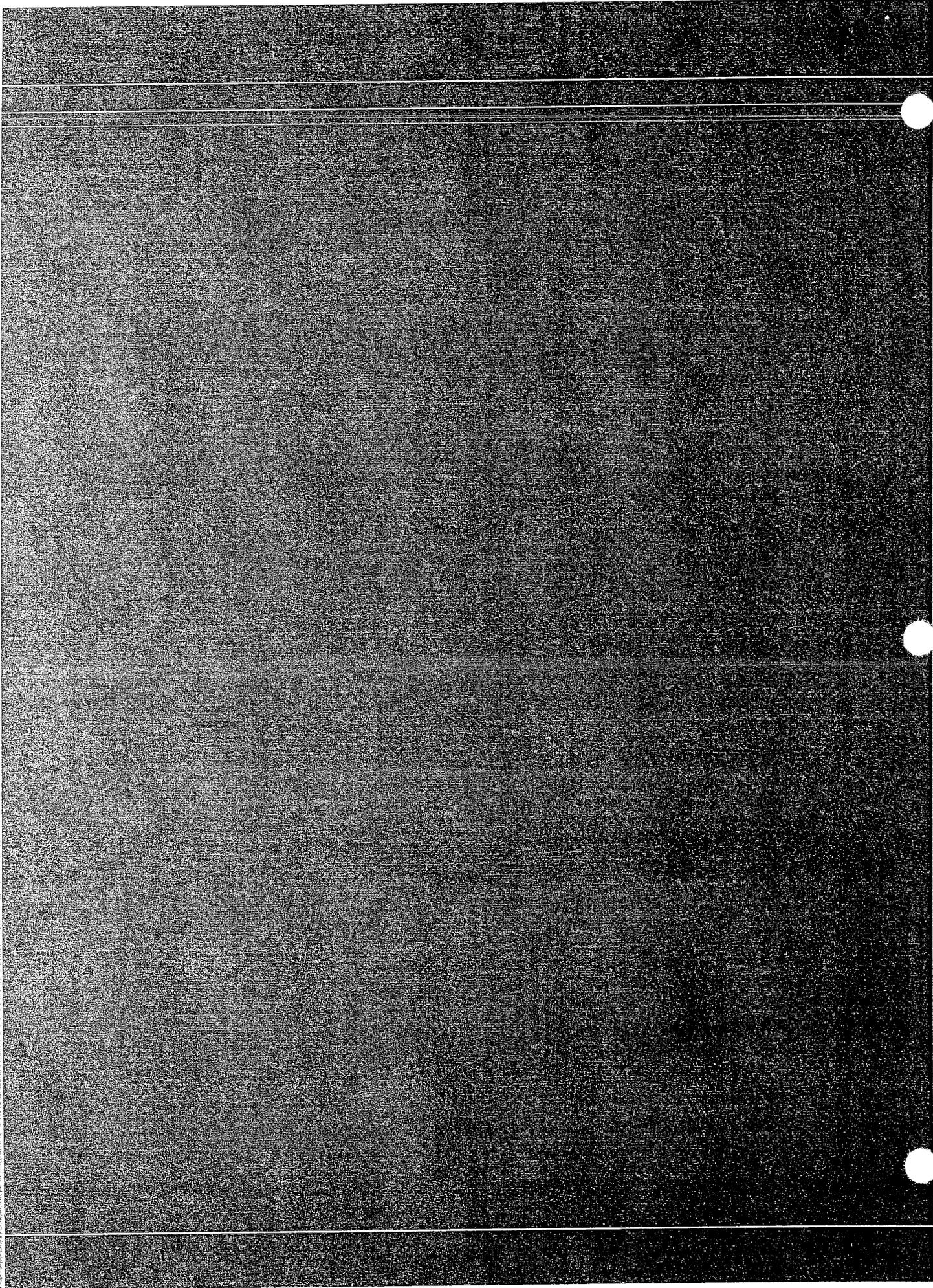
- End hunger by improving access to quality, nutritious foods among all Illinois populations;
- Build needed state infrastructure and foster communication and collaboration among government programs and agencies;
- Create public awareness of hunger and the solutions;
- Build and expand collaborative partnerships between the public and private sector to implement the Commission's goals.

While the scope of the problem is large, we must embrace these goals and make real progress towards achieving them, using the many tools at our disposal to end the insecurity and fear of those suffering from hunger.

The most critical of these tools is you. The Commission cannot do this alone. Only with the combined efforts of elected officials, leaders in the philanthropic and private sector, and residents from throughout our great state will we make the progress we need. We hope you join us in creating a hunger free Illinois.

Cristal Thomas
Co-Chair
Deputy Governor
Office of Governor Patrick Quinn

Kate Maehr
Co-Chair
Executive Director & CEO
Greater Chicago Food Depository



INTRODUCTION



HUNGER IS A CONDITION TOO MANY OF OUR FELLOW ILLINOISANS FACE DAILY. In the United States, hunger is a less a function of the lack of food and more a function of the lack of access: access to nutrient-dense foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and access to the public and private programs that can link people to those foods. Without adequate access to nutritious food, people replace with inexpensive nutrient poor foods, resulting in epidemics in obesity and weight and nutrition related diseases such as diabetes.

The effects of hunger are being felt in every county of Illinois and will have significant impact on the health and economic well-being of our citizens for years to come. TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE, THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR CAME TOGETHER TO CREATE THE ILLINOIS COMMISSION TO END HUNGER.

THE COMMISSION TO END HUNGER

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION TO END HUNGER?

The Commission to End Hunger was created by legislation in 2010 to guarantee collaboration among government entities and community partners in order to ensure that no man, woman, or child in Illinois should ever be faced with hunger. The Commission was appointed by Governor Quinn in March of 2011 and met for the first time in May. The Commission was charged with the task of reporting back to the Governor by March of 2012, with the longer term goal of developing an aggressive and achievable action plan every two years that would measurably reduce hunger in Illinois. In less than one year, the Commission has succeeded in engaging a broad base of knowledgeable partners, all contributing their experience and expertise to this report.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION TO END HUNGER?

Based on the enabling language the Commission developed three primary objectives for its work:

- **DEVELOP** an action plan that measurably reduces hunger in the first two years of its implementation and identifies long term hunger reduction goals and corresponding strategies
- **ENGAGE** Commission members, work group participants and other allies in implementing the action plan in order to reduce hunger in its first two years
- **EDUCATE** the public, community leaders and elected officials about hunger in Illinois for the purpose of engaging them in the implementation of the Commission's action plan to reduce hunger in the state

WHAT IS THE VISION OF THE COMMISSION?

- No one in Illinois will be without adequate access to quality and nutritious food
- Supplemental and emergency food systems will be customer focused and provide service with dignity.
- There will be "no wrong door" for individuals and families in need of food assistance. There will be multiple entry points for programs and services that will be client-centered as opposed to program-centered.
- Nutrition programs and services will be delivered collaboratively, in a seamless fashion, regardless of whether they are federal, state, municipal or private in nature.

WHAT APPROACH DID THE COMMISSION USE TO PRODUCE THIS REPORT?

The Commission created a Steering Committee and divided into three workgroups in order to best address the complex issues facing those who struggle with hunger. Members participated in a series of learning opportunities and discussion forums designed to gather the best information on hunger and its possible solutions in Illinois.¹



DISCOVERY PROCESS:

- **Monthly working group meetings** focused on population-based barriers to accessing healthy and nutritious foods. The three working groups invited additional community experts to share data and resources with regards to Children and Families at Risk, Vulnerable Adults, and Underserved Populations. The working groups were responsible for identifying strategies, barriers, and opportunities for partnership and funding.
- **Eight listening tour stops** across the state of Illinois. Commissioners, working group members, and community partners and their clients gathered in Rantoul, Peoria, Kane County, Cairo, East St. Louis, Rockford, Marion, and Chicago to hear about the impact of hunger in their community. Participants discussed challenges and barriers to accessing adequate nutrition, and considered possible solutions.
- **Caseworker-for-a-day sessions** at Illinois Department of Human Services Family Community Resource Centers. Commissioners and working group members had the opportunity to shadow local caseworkers for a day in order to better understand the state infrastructure for providing public benefits in a time of increasing need across the state.
- **On-site visits** to a Chicago Public School serving school breakfast using an innovative method, and the Holy Family Food Pantry in Waukegan that successfully operates a Summer Food Service Program site.
- **Steering Committee meetings** to coordinate the efforts of the working groups and draw out key pieces of information to work towards creating strategic goals.
- **The full Commission** met three times to aggregate and prioritize information gathered in working group sessions, Steering Committee meetings, and Listening Tour stops
- **Recommendations from key service providers** including the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education

¹ Please see appendix for full listing of Commissioners, workgroup members and staff.

THEMES

During the discovery process of the Commission, three themes have emerged to guide the goals and recommendations for the state:

1. Improve participation in all federal and state nutrition assistance programs
2. Increase utilization of successful, innovative models
3. Improve access to quality, nutritious foods

These themes cut across all demographic groups. Fulfillment will require strong public and private partnerships with the federal and state government, the network of food banks, pantries, and shelters, community and advocacy organizations, private philanthropy and the business community that work collaboratively to reach those in need.

GOALS

Drawing upon the discovery process and the major themes that arose, the Commission has developed four over-arching goals:

GOAL 1: End hunger by improving access to quality, nutritious food among all Illinois populations

GOAL 2: Build needed state infrastructure and foster communication and collaboration among government programs and agencies

GOAL 3: Create public awareness of hunger and the solutions

GOAL 4: Build and expand collaborative partnerships between the public and private sector to implement the Commission goals

For our state to compete in the 21st century economy, we must address food insecurity and the physical, mental and economic toll it takes on individuals and society. This work is not just one of a Commission and its members. It requires the commitment of our elected leaders, the business and philanthropic community, and our neighbors to ensure its success. While these goals are ambitious, we must strive to achieve them for the well-being of all Illinois residents. To reach these goals, the Commission will launch the Hunger Free Illinois initiative and task it with implementing the goals and recommendations laid out in this report.

THE COST OF FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity is the measure that we use to determine what percentage of our community lacks access to adequate, nutritious food to lead a healthy lifestyle. Since 2007, the economic recession and slow recovery has dramatically increased the number of food insecure residents in Illinois. Currently, over 1.8 million or 14.7 percent of Illinois residents face food insecurity including 745,000 of our children—23.3 percent of all children living in Illinois.²

The health and well-being of a society is tied to regular access to and consumption of healthy and nutritious foods. Research has shown food insecurity and poor nutrition influences health throughout the entire lifecycle. Due to food insecurity:

- Infants and toddlers, age's birth to three years old, are particularly vulnerable. A lack of nutritious foods can lead to stunted growth because of the rapid physical, neurological and cognitive growth and development occurring during that time period.³
- Children are more likely to suffer from poor health (both physical and social-emotional) higher school absentee rates, more suspensions and/or behavioral issues, and lower academic performance on achievement tests.⁴
- Adults under the age of sixty are more likely to experience depression, diabetes, chronic diseases, and lower scores on physical and mental health exams.⁵
- Adults at and over sixty experiencing persistent food insecurity are more likely to be in fair or poor health, have limitations in activities of daily life, and have lower intake of energy and critical vitamins. The effect of food insecurity is equivalent to being twenty-one years older.⁶

The costs are not just health related; society bears significant costs. According to the Center for American Progress Hunger in America Report, it is estimated hunger costs our nation \$167.5 billion per year—\$542 for every citizen. We pay through lost economic productivity, poor education outcomes that lead to an unprepared workforce, avoidable health care costs, and the cost of charity to keep people fed.⁷ In Illinois, it cost the state \$6.07 billion in 2010 or \$473 per person. These costs would be even higher without the existing investments from both the government and private sector.

FOOD SECURITY – Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life

FOOD INSECURITY - Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

2 (Map the Meal Gap, 2011)

3 (Cook & Frank, 2008)

4 Ibid

5 (Gundersen & Ziliak, 2011)

6 Ibid

7 (Shepard, Setren, & Cooper, 2011)

COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Both federal and state governments play an important role in combating food insecurity. The federal government has funds and sets eligibility criteria for seventeen food assistance programs. In Illinois, three state agencies share the responsibility for administration of these programs: Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), Illinois Department on Aging and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). In state fiscal year 2010, funding for all federal programs came to nearly \$3.4 billion in Illinois⁸ with 63 percent of the funds devoted to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).⁹ The largest programs include (see appendix for full listing):

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly known as food stamps
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- National School Lunch and Breakfast Program
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Title III Nutrition Program through the Older Americans Act
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program

The largest federal nutrition program to tackle food insecurity is SNAP. This program provides nutrition assistance in the form of an Electronic Benefit Card (EBT) known as the LINK card. This assistance can be used at retail grocers to purchase food. SNAP is an entitlement program, which means that anyone who qualifies can receive the benefit. This allows the program to expand in times of economic downturn and contract during economic booms. Participants must meet three eligibility tests—gross income, net income and assets. Generally, household income must be at or below 130 percent of the poverty level or \$22,350 for a family of four in 2011.¹⁰

Nationally, in fiscal year 2010, 85 percent of SNAP households lived in poverty. And 76 percent of recipients reside in families with children (under the age of 18), an elderly person (over the age of 60) or a person with disabilities (nonelderly).¹¹ In October of 2011, over 1.8 million residents of Illinois (14.2 percent of the population) received SNAP benefits with an average monthly benefit of \$139.15 in FY 2011. This is a total increase of 6.4 percent over 2010 and 49 percent increase over five years ago.¹²

In addition to nutrition assistance, SNAP dollars support economic activity in communities while encouraging work among participants. Thirty percent of SNAP participants nationally have some earnings and half of all new participants leave the program after ten months.¹³ Recent discussions at the federal level have proposed block granting the SNAP program. Block granting would cap funding for each state, inhibiting the flexibility

⁸ (Illinois Human Services Commission Report, 2010)

⁹ *Ibid*

¹⁰ See appendix for all eligibility criteria for specific populations.

¹¹ (Nutrition Assistance Program Report Series: Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2010, 2011)

¹² (SNAP/Food Stamp Monthly Participation Data, 2012)

¹³ (The Benefits of the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program, 2012)

of the program to meet demand due to downturns in the economy or natural disasters. It is imperative the SNAP program remains intact to combat the effects of economic downturn and support families during troubled times. Any proposal to block-grant SNAP or change benefit or eligibility structure must be fought vigorously.

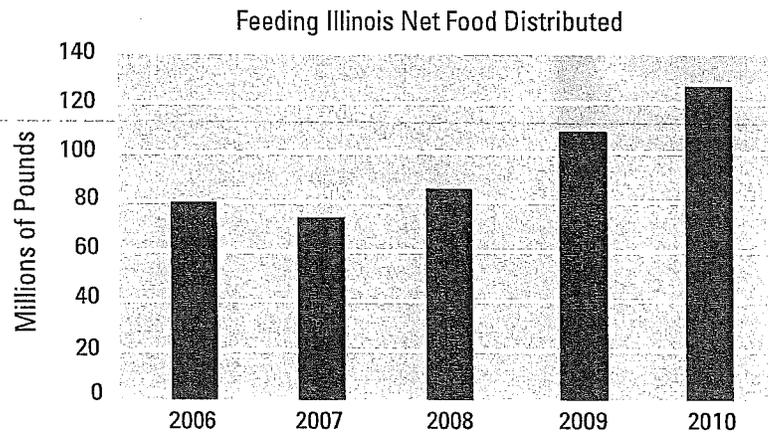
The USDA estimates that \$1 in SNAP benefits increases GDP by \$1.79.
 Source: US Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service

PRIVATE RESPONSE

Despite a number of important government programs, private programs are necessary to fully respond to the need. According to the Feeding America Hunger in America 2010 Report¹⁴, 42 percent of food insecure individuals (over 786,000 people) in Illinois do not qualify for federal nutrition programs. The only safety-net for these individuals are the networks of food banks, food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens.

One group filling this need is Feeding Illinois, an association of food banks that serve every county in Illinois. In 2010, Feeding Illinois’ eight food banks distributed 127 million pounds of food to an estimated 1.4 million people in Illinois—a 17 percent increase over the year prior and a staggering 73 percent increase over three years.

From the outset of the economic downturn, the food banks that serve Illinois have responded to the crisis while dealing with raising food prices and reduced commodity food supply.



14 (Map the Meal Gap, 2011)

Listening Tours

In the summer and fall of 2011, the Commission to End Hunger members traveled Illinois conducting listening tours to better understand regional hunger issues. This fact finding tour gathered first-hand and expert information from individuals who have struggled with food insecurity and public, private and government agencies serving those individuals. Each listening session brought new insights to the work of the Commission and has informed the strategies of its report. In addition to round-table discussions, many events included tours of service provider facilities so Commissioners could better understand the different approaches to reducing hunger in their communities. The following are the locations of the listening tour and a summary of the material Commissioners learned from these events.



UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Illinois Migrant Council Conference, Rantoul Community Service Center, Rantoul, Illinois
Commissioners met with representatives from the Illinois Migrant Council and Champaign's Wesley Evening Food Pantry to learn about the unique issues migrant workers face as it relates to food insecurity. Since this population is frequently on the move it is difficult for them to connect with services. Food pantry representatives discussed the need for service providers to better understand the unique challenges of these clients and how to adapt services to provide greater assistance.

CHILDHOOD HUNGER: THE PRIVATE RESPONSE

United Methodist Church Summer Program, Peoria, Illinois

This listening tour stop in Peoria examined childhood hunger and the impact on children's overall development. Commissioners listen to a variety of speakers discuss how private and nonprofit partners in Peoria have come together to develop programs to reduce hunger while sharing lunch with a group of children receiving summer meals through the church's private program.

THE HIDDEN FACE OF HUNGER

Wayne Township Pantry, West Chicago and Kane County Farm Bureau, St. Charles, Illinois

In one of the most affluent communities in Illinois, Commissioners heard firsthand from food pantry clients struggling to provide nutritious food for themselves and their families. Service providers shared stories of vulnerable populations such as veterans, people with disabilities and immigrants who often go overlooked in affluent communities but are struggling in this economy. The effects of the foreclosure crisis and long-term unemployment were central themes at this stop.

"I felt that at this listening tour stop it wasn't just what we learned from community leaders, but the relationships we began to build with them.

We learned about their unique challenges but also learned that the challenges they face are similar to those we are seeing in urban and suburban areas.

We left with a shared commitment to ensuring that our state plan reflect their unique challenges and provide sufficient resources to address them."

- Commissioner TRACY SMITH reflecting on the Cairo event.

HUNGER IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Daystar Community Program, Cairo, Illinois

Alexander and Pulaski Counties are the counties farthest south in the state and home to the highest food insecurity rates. At this meeting, Commissioners learned about the challenges facing rural communities in addressing hunger. In particular, the difficulty in providing services when transportation costs are high and populations are decentralized.

HUNGER AND POVERTY: PROVIDING TOOLS TO MOVE TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

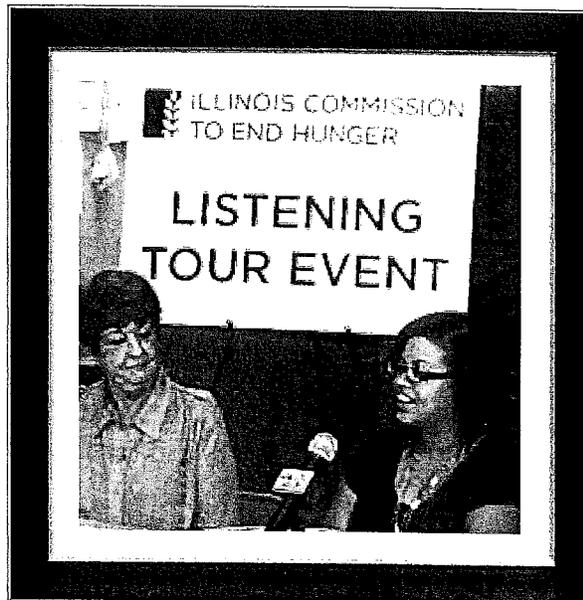
Lessie Bates, Mary Brown Center, East St. Louis, Illinois

Transportation was again the central theme as this listening tour stop in East St. Louis brought Commissioners to Lessie Bates – a longstanding human services provider. Commissioners heard from members from the surrounding community about the impact of hunger in their community and how agencies like Lessie Bates, the local WIC office, St. Louis Area Foodbank and the Area Agency on Aging are providing a range of services to help their clients address not just hunger but the underlying issues of poverty.

STRUGGLING AT THE THRESHOLD: THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND SOCIAL SERVICE CUTS ON ALREADY STRUGGLING COMMUNITIES

Learning Center, Rockford, Illinois

Commissioners visited Rockford, which has one of the highest unemployment rates of any metropolitan area in the state. The national economic crisis coupled with cuts to social service programs are weighing heavy on the community as they struggle to provide services to meet the needs. This challenging environment has pushed some organizations to re-think how they deliver services yielding new ideas and lessons learned for the state to model.



UNDERSTANDING CURRENT SERVICES Southern Illinois Service Provider Quarterly Meeting, Marion, Illinois

Commissioners joined a quarterly meeting of service providers who serve rural communities across Southern Illinois. At the meeting, speakers addressed particular challenges facing rural communities, the programs currently addressing hunger and poverty issues, and ideas for working together to reduce hunger. Local elected officials weighed in and addressed the need of state government to play a stronger role in supporting hunger relief programs and solving systemic issues that create food insecure communities.

BRIDGING THE GAP: CONNECTING OLDER ADULTS WITH NUTRITION PROGRAMS

St. Ignatius Food Pantry, Chicago, Illinois

Older adults struggling with hunger are at greater risk of health problems but are often unaware of the nutrition programs available to assist them. Commissioners began this event with an observation of a pantry distribution to older adults. During the roundtable, Commissioners met with service providers who help families, seniors, and immigrant populations access nutrition programs such as SNAP.

These food banks are the back bone of the emergency food network in Illinois, distributing federal commodity food through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and supporting a network of 2,000 pantries, shelters and soup kitchens. This network is incredibly efficient and taps into the rich community resources in our state. According to the Hunger in America (2010): Illinois Report:

- Food banks are the single most important source of food for agencies with emergency food providers, accounting for 69% of the food distributed by pantries, 50% of the food distributed by kitchens and 48% of the food distributed by shelters.
- 65% of food pantries and 34% of soup kitchens are completely volunteer-run and have no paid staff
- 70% of pantries, 57% of kitchens, and 39% of shelters are run by faith-based agencies.

MORE MUST BE DONE

Despite the government and private response to growing food insecurity, the need is still great. With over 1.8 million Illinoisans facing food insecurity, it is estimated we need an additional \$736 million dollars to fill in the gap. Research has shown that of the 1.8 million at least 42 percent are ineligible for federal nutrition programs.¹⁵ Among the 745,000 food insecure children, 39 percent are likely ineligible for nutrition programs due to income thresholds.¹⁶ Additionally, thousands of eligible individuals are not accessing the programs they are entitled to receive. Many of the non-participants are seniors and working poor families who are among the vulnerable and underserved populations at-risk for hunger.

The Commission to End Hunger acknowledges the limits of nutrition programs to meet the gap. However, we have great room for improving participation among those eligible while identifying new resources to expand programs to those in need. While the scope of the problem is large, we have many of the tools necessary to end the insecurity and fear of those suffering from hunger. With an eye on these programs, collaborations, and private investments, the Commission to End Hunger developed the following goals and recommendations. With everyone as a partner, we can have a hunger free Illinois.

“Most farm workers have to really stretch their pay and their food just to get to the next paycheck. They choose between fuel to get to work and food to feed their families. That’s the experience of many workers. And in the extreme cases, where there’s not enough work, and no pay, the children in these families will go hungry.”

— ELOY SALAZAR, Illinois Migrant Council (Rantoul event)

¹⁵ (Map the Meal Gap, 2011)

¹⁶ (Map the Meal Gap, 2011)

GOAL 1: End hunger by improving access to quality, nutritious food among all Illinois populations

SUB-GOAL 1: END HUNGER AND IMPROVE NUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS

Food insecurity during the childhood years can be devastating to a child's physical, social and emotional development. Over 23 percent¹⁷ of Illinois children at some point in their life will face not knowing when or where their next meal might be come from. For our state and our children to succeed, we must tackle hunger in our youngest residents.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Increase participation in all federal child nutrition programs

- Strategy 1.1: Increase participation in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Strategy 1.2: Increase participation in the Summer Feeding Service Program (SFSP)
- Strategy 1.3: Increase participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Strategy 1.4: Increase participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) with a special focus on retention for children ages one to five
- Strategy 1.5 Encourage school districts to participate in the Community Eligibility Option and Direct Certification for National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

RECOMMENDATION 2: Connect eligible children and families to all available nutrition assistance programs

- Strategy 2.1: Expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) outreach coordinators within school districts with a focus on at-risk children including eligible children residing in ineligible households
- Strategy 2.2: Develop and implement a strategy to increase SNAP and WIC outreach efforts to include young children not currently enrolled in school or those enrolled in preschool or childcare programs
- Strategy 2.3: Identify, develop, and invest in best practice models for sites to provide a continuum of feeding options for whole families including grandparents—rather than only children—within the Summer Feeding Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program

RECOMMENDATION 3: Invest in innovative programming

- Strategy 3.1: Identify and duplicate successful programs from around the country and within communities in Illinois such as community gardens, local agriculture, and nutrition education
- Strategy 3.2: Increase public and private funding to maximize successful backpack programs and/or other model for weekend, summer and holiday food programming

17 (Map the Meal Gap, 2011)

SUB-GOAL 2: END HUNGER AND IMPROVE NUTRITION AMONG VULNERABLE ADULTS (OLDER ADULTS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE CHRONICALLY ILL, THE HOMELESS AND VETERANS)

Food insecurity puts vulnerable adults at increased risk of poor health outcomes and decreases their ability to live independently. People with existing health challenges must have adequate nutritious food to manage their health and ensure appropriate absorption of medication. There is opportunity to expand participation in existing federal nutrition programs for this population but it will require outreach and program delivery systems that meet the populations' needs.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Increase SNAP usage by pursuing each strategy below for each vulnerable adult ("VA") population

- Strategy 1.1: Identify and remove the unique, discrete barriers experienced by VAs in accessing SNAP
- Strategy 1.2: Implement state options and seek federal waivers that increase access to SNAP by VAs
- Strategy 1.3: Improve training of state agency staff who come into contact with VAs
- Strategy 1.4: Increase the capacity of social service agencies working with VAs to facilitate VAs participation in SNAP
- Strategy 1.5: Expand outreach to VAs using less traditional access points, including population-specific organizations
- Strategy 1.6: Identify creative solutions to transportation issues VAs face
- Strategy 1.7: Undertake public education campaign to remove stigma of utilizing SNAP

RECOMMENDATION 2: Increase participation by seniors in Older Americans Act programs (home-delivered and congregate meals)

- Strategy 2.1: Pursue innovative strategies to enhance the programs' appeal to seniors
- Strategy 2.2: Identify synergies with other food and nutrition programs that will increase participation

RECOMMENDATION 3: Improve nutrition among vulnerable adults

- Strategy 3.1: Build capacity of persons and organizations working with VAs to assess warning signs of poor nutrition
- Strategy 3.2: Involve health professionals including doctors and pharmacists in promoting better nutrition among VAs

SUB-GOAL 3: END HUNGER AND IMPROVE NUTRITION AMONG ALL UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS (IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANT WORKERS, WORKING POOR, INDIVIDUALS INELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS, AND INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES)

Many food insecure people such as new citizens in our state struggle with accessing resources in Illinois because of cultural barriers, transportation barriers, high rates of mobility, and ineligibility for federal nutrition programs. We must reach out to these populations directly through trusted institutions. People in rural communities can be difficult to serve because of transportation barriers and a lack of traditional community hunger-relief partners like large chain retail or manufacturing. Migrant workers who are a critical part of our food supply in Illinois struggle with accessing federal benefits and other charity resources because of their high mobility, long work hours, and lack of access to transportation. To address these challenges, it is important that government programs work collaboratively with private resources to bring creative solutions.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Increase access to food pantries and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for food insecure adults and families

Strategy 1.1: Increase access to food distribution sites in urban and rural areas by addressing transportation issues and/or increasing points of distribution

Strategy 1.2: Connect families who are ineligible for SNAP to emergency food services in their area

RECOMMENDATION 2: Increase SNAP utilization among eligible but underserved populations

Strategy 2.1: Expand SNAP outreach programs to migrant works and eligible immigrant families

Strategy 2.2: Increase access to SNAP outreach by addressing transportation, language and cultural barriers

RECOMMENDATION 3: Expand and utilize successful models to increase frequency and collaboration around food drives

Strategy 3.1: Provide incentives and opportunities for collaborations between the private sector and community partners to promote and implement food drives

RECOMMENDATION 4: Provide immigrants and mixed-status families with information about programs and eligibility in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner

Strategy 4.1: Work with appropriate organizations to ensure understanding of program eligibility

Strategy 4.2: Conduct a statewide survey of migrant and seasonal farm workers to gauge food insecurity, map the areas where the need exists, and develop or connect the populations to appropriate services

GOAL 2: Build needed state infrastructure and foster communication and collaboration among government programs and agencies

The duty of state government is to provide services to eligible populations in a timely manner with respect and dignity. Due to exploding caseloads and staff cuts, this goal is difficult to meet. SNAP benefits are processed and administered through IDHS Family Community Resource Centers. With the economic downturn of recent years, caseloads have increased while staffing has decreased. Investing in human and technological infrastructure will allow programs to operate efficiently while treating the client with the respect they deserve.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Invest in state infrastructure and capacity within the Illinois Department of Human Services to ensure all eligible populations are being served in a timely manner with respect and dignity

Strategy 1.2 Hire more caseworkers to process current SNAP caseloads in a timely and efficient manner

Strategy 1.2: Assess and invest in the technological needs of programs to serve clients

- Strategy 1.3: Explore cost effective strategies and partnerships for better serving SNAP-eligible populations
- Strategy 1.4: Ensure all staff are properly trained and equipped to understand the barriers and access issues for the populations they serve including language, culture and transportation
- Strategy 1.5: Investigate having Illinois Department of Human Services office hours reflect the needs of the communities and clients

RECOMMENDATION 2: Develop the technology to connect and share data among multiple state agencies and divisions for efficient and effective targeting of services and populations

- Strategy 2.1 Research and or connect to other state shared technology platforms such as making them accessible to schools, food pantries, and other community organizations

RECOMMENDATION 3: Explore and pursue new federal opportunities to increase access to programs

- Strategy 3.1: Integrate SNAP eligibility determinations into new health insurance eligibility determination process under the Affordable Care Act
- Strategy 3.2: Establish a team dedicated to applying for and administering grants and funding to develop innovative solutions to service provision – including demonstration projects and pilot funding made available through the federal government

RECOMMENDATION 4: Pursue innovative programs to increase access to quality nutritious food in underserved and disadvantaged areas.

- Strategy 4.1 Explore creation of a state program to acquire food from Illinois farmers for distribution through the food bank network.
- Strategy 4.2 Implement the Illinois Fresh Food Fund to help bring grocery stores to food desert areas.
- Strategy 4.3 Expand successful programs such as community gardens, farmers' markets, local/urban agriculture, and nutrition education.

GOAL 3: Create public awareness of hunger and the solutions

The image of hunger is no longer the soup lines of the Great Depression. Instead it is written in the faces of working adults who skip a meal so their children can eat: of children who can't concentrate on their school work because they are distracted by feelings of hunger, or of seniors forced to choose between purchasing food or medication. Tackling food insecurity will require the support and understanding of the issues from everyone not just members of a Commission or elected officials.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Create a public awareness campaign to inform the public on the issue of hunger in Illinois

- Strategy 1.1: Create and test messaging surrounding the issues and solutions of hunger to reduce stigma and increase enrollment

RECOMMENDATION 2: Develop informational messages (PSA's) for appropriate populations regarding available food programs in their area

Strategy 2.1: Target messages to vulnerable and underserved populations using a variety media touch points including social media, mobile devices, toll free information lines and traditional media

RECOMMENDATION 3: Foster new relationships with a variety of public and private partners to encourage enrollment in nutrition programs

Strategy 3.1: Provide accurate and accessible information at multiple points of entry including food pantries, farmers markets, unemployment offices, and physician's offices and ensure staff has a basic understanding of programs and resources

Strategy 3.2: Partner with the medical community to assist with nutrition program information and enrollment

GOAL 4: Build and expand collaborative partnerships between the public and private sector to implement the Commission goals

The issues surrounding food insecurity are numerous and complex. A partnership between government, nonprofit, philanthropic and business communities must be developed and sustained to bring resources to those in need.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Create Hunger Free Illinois to implement the recommendations of the Illinois Commission to End Hunger Report

Strategy 6.1: Create a No Kid Hungry campaign – with support from local and national partners- to implement the recommendation of ending childhood hunger in Illinois.

Strategy 6.2: Maximize private funding opportunities to increase availability of resources recommended in this report to all communities and populations

NEXT STEPS

Each goal and their accompanying recommendations and strategies were developed to provide a roadmap for successful implementation. Over the next year the Commission will:

- Develop and release a detailed action plan laying out the specific strategies and action steps needed to achieve the goals identified by the Commission in this report.
- Launch Hunger Free Illinois, an initiative to ensure the implementation of the recommendations and goals.
- Launch a “No Kid Hungry” campaign to focus on the strategies related to childhood hunger in Illinois.
- Engage a broad spectrum of partners in the implementation of the plan through regional and statewide conference and meetings.

Illinois Commission to End Hunger Relevant Nutrition Programs in Illinois Snapshot						
Program	Federal	State	Population Served / Eligibility	How it Works	Funding	People Served
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	FNS, USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA	Department of Healthcare & Family Services	All persons whose households meet the gross (130% Federal poverty level) and net (100% Federal poverty level) monthly income tests Households with an elderly or disabled member are not required to meet the gross income test. Households where all members receive TANF or SSI are automatically eligible.	Households submit an application through IDHS. If determined to be eligible, SNAP benefits are then provided on a Link Card — an electronic card that the recipient can then use for groceries wherever the card is accepted. The amount of SNAP benefits a household receives is determined by a budgeting of their income and expenses.	FY10 Redemptions \$2,746,041,6971	FY11* 1,793,886 average monthly participants ² *preliminary
Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	FNS, USDA	Illinois State Board of Education (child) Department of Aging (adult)	Child: 0-12 enrolled in qualifying centers or at-home programs Adult: Functionally impaired adults enrolled in day care or 60+ years old Participants from households with incomes at or below 130% Federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Participants with household incomes between 130% and 185% Federal poverty level are eligible for meals at a reduced price. Adults who receive SNAP, SSI or Medicaid are automatically eligible for free meals.	USDA gives grants to states who then reimburse participating child and adult institutions and qualified at-home child care homes for meals served on a per snack/meal basis. In addition to cash reimbursement, USDA makes donated agricultural foods or cash-in-lieu of donated foods available to institutions participating in CACFP.	FY11 Cash Payments \$120,606,5683	FY11 Meals Served 87,201,720 FY11 Average Daily Meals in highest month counted 144,1124
Older Americans Act, Home-Delivered Meals	Administration on Aging (AOA), Health and Human Services AOA, Health and Human Services	Department of Aging	People who are aged 60+ and homebound or the spouse of an older individual regardless of age. Also available to those under age 60 with disabilities if they reside with a homebound older individual.	The IL Department, on Aging allocates the funds to the 13 Area Agencies on Aging as required by the Older Americans Act. The Area Agencies on Aging in IL are not, as a rule, direct service providers. They provide grant or contract funds to 84 local nutrition providers that provide the direct service.	FY11 \$38,839,6485	FY10 7,584,674 meals to 40,912 older adults ⁶
Older Americans Act, Congregate Meal Program	AOA, Health and Human Services	Department of Aging	People who are aged 60+ or the spouse of an older individual regardless of age. May be available on a limited basis to those under age 60 if they are: individuals with disabilities who reside with older individuals, volunteers who provide services during meal hours, individuals with disabilities who reside in housing facilities primarily occupied by older individuals at which congregate nutrition services are provided.	The IL Department, on Aging allocates the funds to the 13 Area Agencies on Aging as required by the Older Americans Act. The Area Agencies on Aging in IL are not, as a rule, direct service providers. They provide grant or contract funds to 84 local nutrition providers that provide the direct service.	FY11 \$23,765,1427	FY10 2,805,195 meals to 31,387 older adults. ⁸
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	FNS, USDA	Illinois Department of Human Services	Individuals or households who are residents of Illinois and have individual or household income no greater than 130% Federal poverty level. People who receive prepared meals at soup kitchens or homeless shelters are considered income eligible.	TEFAP provides food at no cost to help supplement the diets of needy low-income households. USDA buys the food, including processing and packaging, and ships it to the States. IDHS contracts with eight food banks across the state to oversee the release of food to food pantries and soup kitchens.	FY11 Estimated \$10,157,8329	FY11 947,650 visits to TEFAP pantries
Commodity Supplemental Food Programs (CSFP)	FNS, USDA	Illinois Department of Human Services	Low-income pregnant, breastfeeding women, infants, children up to 6 years old between 100% Federal poverty level and 185% Federal poverty level. Adults 60+ years old that are at or below 135% Federal poverty level. According to DHS, more than 97% of those served are elderly.	USDA provides food and administrative funds to States to supplement the diets of eligible participants. In IL, Catholic Charities delivers CSFP goods to eligible participants at 10 food distribution sites and 181 outreach sites throughout Cook County. Tri-State Food Bank delivers food packages to 10 sites in seven counties and the St. Louis Area Food Bank delivers in two counties.	SFY11 \$1,073,52810	SFY11 16,52511

Illinois Commission to End Hunger Relevant Nutrition Programs in Illinois Snapshot						
Program	Federal	State	Population Served / Eligibility	How it Works	Funding	People Served
Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)	FNS, USDA	Illinois Department of Human Services	Seniors who are 60+ years old and who have household incomes of 185% Federal poverty level or less.	Eligible recipients get three dollar checks, which can be redeemed for fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmers' markets in participating counties. Nutrition education materials, including recipes, are also distributed. Not all vendors take FMNP checks.	SFY10 Grant \$875,46512	SFY10 38,50013
Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	DHS-CHP, USDA	Illinois Department of Human Services	Women and their children who are: 1. Pregnant, breastfeeding or just had a baby 2. Infants and Children under 5 years old (includes foster children) 3. Families with a low to medium income and qualify according to USDA WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines To be eligible for WIC, applicants' gross income, before taxes, must fall below 185% Federal poverty level	Provides special checks to purchase healthy foods restricted to selected milk, juice, eggs, cheese, cereal, dry beans or peas and peanut butter. Provides information about nutrition, health and breastfeeding. To improve the health and nutritional status of women, infants and children; to reduce the incidence of infant mortality, premature births and low birth weight; to aid in the development of children; and, to make referrals to other health care and social service providers.	FY 2010 Budget \$299,670,000	FY2011 Preliminary 295,409
School Lunch Program (National School Lunch Program NSLP)	USDA	Illinois State Board of Education	Children from families with incomes at or below 130% Federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Families between 130% and 185% Federal poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals. Children from families with incomes over 185% Federal poverty level pay full price, though their meals are still subsidized to some extent.	Available to all public and private schools, and residential child care institutions which agree to operate a non-profit program offering lunches meeting federal requirements to all children in attendance. Requires state matching funds to ensure further federal funding for the School Lunch Program.	FY 2011 \$378,028,104	2010-2011 School Year 1,113,872 average daily meals
School Breakfast Program (School Breakfast Program SBP)	USDA	Illinois State Board of Education	All Illinois public schools are required to offer a free meal to qualifying students – lunch is required and breakfast required if the school operates a breakfast program. Students must receive free meals if they are eligible to receive food stamps or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Students are eligible for Free Breakfast program if they qualify for the Free Lunch program (listed above).	Federal entitlement program in schools and residential child care institutions. Participation is open to all public or non-profit private schools of high school grade or under as well as residential child care institutions. There are various options for serving breakfast such as: Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab 'n Go Breakfast, Breakfast on the Bus, Breakfast After 1st Period, and the traditional breakfast.	FY 2011 \$98,224,803	2010-2011 School Year 382,891 average daily meals in highest month counted
Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)	USDA	Illinois State Board of Education	Serves nutritious meals during the summer months when school is not in session. Children under the age of 18 years or any person 20 years of age or younger with a mental or physical disability that attends an ISBE certified school program during the school year. To qualify the child's household's annual income before taxes should be between 130% and 185% Federal poverty level,	Organizations agree to serve meals that meet USDA nutrition guidelines, in return, the USDA works through Illinois state agencies to reimburse organizations for meals and for administering the program. Sponsoring organizations include: public or private non-profit local educational agencies, entities of state, local, municipal or county government, private non-profits or residential camps.	FY11 \$10,360,691	Summer 2011 53,416 average daily attendance in July 2011

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ILLINOIS COMMISSION TO END HUNGER MEMBERS AND STAFF

APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS:

Mary Ellen Abbott, Illinois Hunger Coalition, Southern Region Field Director
Joseph Antolin, Heartland Human Care Services, Inc., Executive Director
Patricia Bellock, Illinois House of Representatives, State Representative
Betsy Creamer, Illinois Department of Aging, Older American Services Supervisor
John Cheney Egan, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Office of Housing and Cash
Esperanza Velasquez-Gonzalez, Illinois Migrant Council, Director of Minority Health Programs
Marla Goodwin, Jeremiah's Food Pantry, Director
Mark Haller, Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition Programs
Don Harmon, Illinois State Senate, State Senator, President Pro Tempore
Lisa Hernandez, Illinois House of Representatives, State Representative, 24th District
Grace Hou, Illinois Department of Human Services, Assistant Secretary
Juanita Irizarry, The Chicago Community Trust, Program Officer
Mark Ishaug, AIDS United, President and CEO
Ahlam Jbara, Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, Associate Director
Barbara Karacic, Holy Family Food Pantry, Food Pantry Services Director
Dan Lesser, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Director, Economic Security
Kerry Lofton, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Office of the Director
Katherine Maehr, Greater Chicago Food Depository, Executive Director, CEO
John Millner, Illinois Senate, State Senator
Nicole Robinson, Kraft Foods Foundation, Vice President
Kathleen Ryg, Voices for Illinois Children, President
Amy Rynell, Social IMPACT Research Center at Heartland Alliance, Director
Kappy Scates, Scates Farms, Owner
Tracy Smith, Feeding Illinois; State Director
Terry Solomon, Illinois African-American Family Commission, Executive Director
Cristal Thomas, Office of Governor Pat Quinn, Deputy Governor
Gary Tomlin, Knox County,
Peter Vina, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Deputy Director, Outreach

Jay Curtis, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Chief of Staff
Barbara Rose, Illinois Food, Farm and Jobs Council

WORKGROUPS:

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT RISK:
 CHAIR – **Kathy Ryg**, Voices for Illinois Children
Patricia Bellock, Illinois House of Representatives
John Cheney Egan, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Mark Haller, Illinois State Board of Education
Barb Karacic, Holy Family Food Pantry
John Milner, Illinois Senate
Nicole Robinson, Kraft Foods
Barbara Rose, Illinois Food, Farms and Jobs Council
Julie Mikkelsen, United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services
Penny Roth, Illinois Department of Human Services
Melissa Roy, Share Our Strength
Janet Campbell, Illinois State Board of Education
Tom Browning, Illinois Action for Children

UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS:

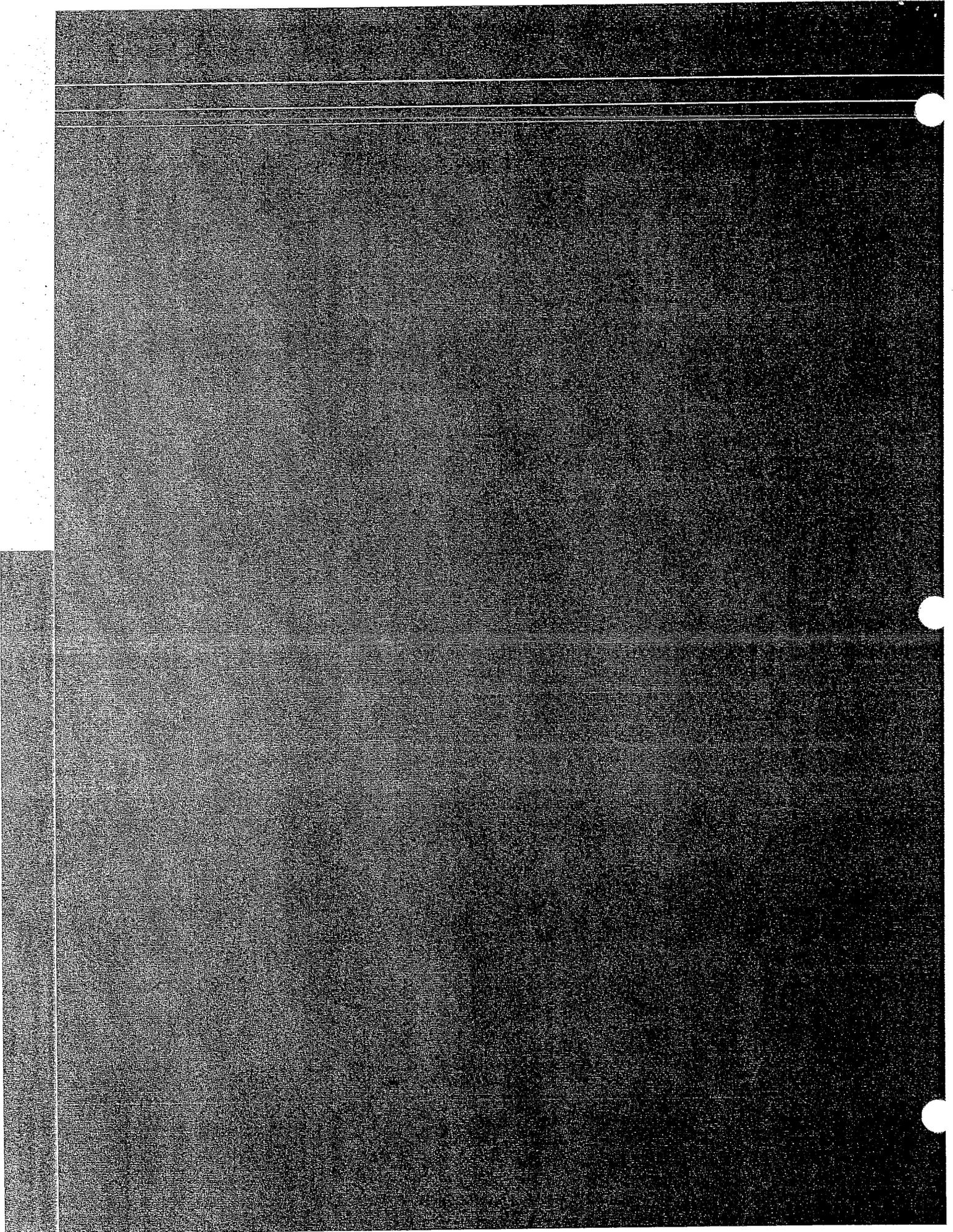
CHAIR - **Marla Goodwin**, Jeremiah's Food Pantry
Mary Ellen Abbott, Illinois Hunger Coalition
Joseph Antolin, Heartland Human Care Services
Lisa Hernandez, Illinois House of Representatives
Alham Jbara, Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
Kerry Lofton, Illinois Department of Agriculture
Gary Tomlin, Knox County
Esperanza Velasquez-Gonzalez, Illinois Migrant Council
Julie Murphy, Senior Vice President, Midwest Division, Walmart
Jennifer Wagner, Illinois Department of Human Services
Peter Vina, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family

VULNERABLE ADULTS:

CHAIR - **Dan Lesser**, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Betsy Creamer, Illinois Department of Aging
Don Harmon, Illinois Senate
Juanita Irizarry, The Chicago Community Trust
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Barry Taylor, Equip for Equality
Linda Diamond Shapiro, Access Community Health
Bob Gallo, AARP Illinois Chapter
Jan Freeman, Illinois Department of Human Services
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Carissa Gomez – Communications and Development Manager – Feeding Illinois
Allison Forrer – SNAP Outreach Manager – Feeding Illinois
Dawn Melchiorre – Commission to End Hunger Campaign Manager – Greater Chicago Food Depository
Doug Schenkelberg – Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach – Greater Chicago Food Depository





COMMISSION *to*
END HUNGER

2013
REPORT





ILLINOIS COMMISSION TO END HUNGER

GOVERNOR QUINN AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

On behalf of the members of the Commission to End Hunger and its working groups, it is our pleasure to report the activities and achievements for 2012. The activities and achievements outlined in this report are a testament to the dedication and commitment shown by the public and private sectors, organizations and individuals, who partnered with the Commission and embraced the goals of the 2012 Action Plan.

The Commission was created by legislation in 2010 to develop a statewide action plan to measurably reduce hunger in Illinois. We believe that no man, woman or child should ever be faced with hunger. While progress has been made, we have a long road ahead before we can declare an end to hunger in Illinois.

Since the release of the Action Plan:

- The No Kid Hungry Campaign was launched as a public-private partnership to end childhood hunger in Illinois.
- Participation in the School Breakfast Program by low income children increased over 15%.
- The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) served an additional 172,800 meals to children 18 and under during the summer of 2012.
- Feeding Illinois and the Illinois Department of Human Services worked collaboratively to increase efficiencies in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) passing the savings to Illinois' food banks to serve more in need.

These highlights, along with the others outlined in this update, are witness to the organizations and individuals who have worked collaboratively across sectors. Investments from private philanthropy including the national anti-hunger organization Share Our Strength and local funder, the Chicago Community Trust, provided the necessary resources to implement many of the recommendations. But our work is far from over and the need continues to increase, requiring the continued investment from the public and private sectors.

Nearly two million Illinoisans, including 684,000 children, face food insecurity - not knowing where their next meal will come from. Food insecurity is being felt in every county of Illinois and will have a significant impact on the health and economic well-being of our residents for years to come.

As the Commission and its members continue to implement the recommendations laid out in the Action Plan, we need your support. Work with us to expand access to federal nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), School Breakfast, and Summer Food Service Program by being the champion in your district. Connect individuals in need with their local food bank and pantry. Collaborate with us to build the necessary infrastructure and increase efficiency so our state can meet the needs of its residents tomorrow and in the year to come. Together, we can have a Hunger Free Illinois!

Cristal Thomas
Co-Chair
Deputy Governor
Office of Governor Patrick Quinn

Kate Maehr
Co-Chair
Executive Director & CEO
Greater Chicago Food Depository

COMMISSION TO END HUNGER'S ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Commission to End Hunger was created by legislation in 2010 to guarantee collaboration among government entities and community partners in order to ensure that no man, woman, or child in Illinois should ever experience hunger. The Commission was appointed by Governor Quinn in March of 2011 and was charged with the task of developing an aggressive and achievable action plan every two years that would measurably reduce hunger in Illinois.

Through the work of the three standing workgroups - Children and Families at Risk (renamed the No Kid Hungry Committee), Vulnerable Adults, and Underserved Populations, as well as the Commission's Steering Committee - members engaged with a broad base of knowledgeable partners. To develop the Action Plan, the Commission engaged individuals throughout the state by holding monthly workgroup meetings and attending eight listening tour stops, arranging for members to have a caseworker for a day sessions, arranging visits to nutrition programs, hosting full Commission and Steering Committee meetings, and receiving recommendations from key state agencies.

The Commission's Action Plan was adopted by the members and presented to Governor Quinn and the General Assembly members on March 14, 2012. The four overarching goals of the Action Plan are:

GOAL 1: End hunger by improving access to quality, nutritious food among all Illinois populations

GOAL 2: Build needed state infrastructure and foster communication and collaboration among government programs and agencies

GOAL 3: Create public awareness of hunger and the solutions

GOAL 4: Build and expand collaborative partnerships between the public and private sector to implement the Commission goals

Since the release of the Action Plan, the full Commission, Steering Committee and Work Groups have continued to meet to develop the strategies and build the momentum to achieve the four goals. In April of 2013, the Commission brought together over 250 individuals representing the public and private sectors for a Hunger Summit in Springfield.

At the Summit, Commission members provided participants with an update to the work accomplished in year one and received feedback to shape the work for year two. Next year's goals for implementation of the action plan are listed at the end of this document.



STORY FROM THE COMMUNITY

In the summer of 2012, the Illinois No Kid Hungry Campaign partnered with the Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) organization to have Parent "Food" Ambassadors do door-to-door outreach in hard-to-reach, at-risk neighborhoods in Chicago. For six weeks, the food ambassadors knocked on over 4,900 doors, went to local businesses, and attended festivals to let families know about summer meals sites in their neighborhood. They spoke to over 2,400 people. Daisy Rivera, one of the food ambassadors, retold this story about the importance of door-to-door outreach:

"A mother came to the door and said, 'I don't know what I would've done if you hadn't come.' She was recently separated, cut off food stamps, had been in a car accident, and didn't have a car or money. We gave her the flyers. She was crying.... She thanked us for the information. She had been laid off, didn't have a car to take her kids to school. It was rewarding... to know we made a difference."

GOAL 1: End hunger by improving access to quality, nutritious food among all Illinois populations

SUB-GOAL 1: END HUNGER AND IMPROVE NUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Launched the Illinois No Kid Hungry Campaign in partnership with Share Our Strength.
- During the 2011-2012 school year, over 349,000 low-income children participated in the school breakfast program, an increase of 15.9% over the 2010-2011 school year.
- The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) served an additional 172,800 meals to children 18 and under during the summer of 2012.

ACTIVITIES:

School Breakfast

- Through the support of private philanthropy, four School Breakfast Grants were awarded to organizations to employ full-time breakfast coordinators. These coordinators will be working with targeted school districts to implement best practice models to increase participation in school breakfast.
- Held two School Breakfast Summits, in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Midwest Dairy Council, attended by over 175 individuals from schools around the state to encourage adoption of alternative breakfast models to increase participation.
- Launched the Governor's Breakfast Challenge in partnership with the Midwest Dairy Council to provide awards to the schools with the largest increase in breakfast participation.
- In partnership with Share Our Strength, \$15,000 was awarded to schools to assist in their expansion of the School Breakfast Program.

Summer Food Service Program

- Held the first-ever statewide Summer Food Summit – in partnership with ISBE, Illinois Hunger Coalition and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)- attended by 100 individuals to build collaboration and communication between SFSP sponsors to increase the number of meals served to children in 2013.
- In partnership with Share Our Strength, awarded over \$51,000 in grants to ten organizations to support expansion of the SFSP programs.
- Developed uniform statewide outreach materials for SFSP to increase recognition of the program.
- Launched a texting platform and website dedicated to SFSP allowing families to easily access their local summer food program.
- Piloted a parent “food ambassador” outreach model in partnership with Communities Organizing and Family Issues (COFI). The food ambassadors went door to door in three Chicago neighborhoods to inform families and community leaders of the SFSP program.

SUB-GOAL 2: END HUNGER AND IMPROVE NUTRITION AMONG VULNERABLE ADULTS (OLDER ADULTS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE CHRONICALLY ILL, THE HOMELESS AND VETERANS)

ACTIVITIES:

- Worked to identify the distinct food insecurity challenges of each vulnerable population identified in the Action Plan. Consulted with experts and practitioners from the social service networks serving vulnerable adults to gain their insight into the barriers preventing eligible vulnerable adults from accessing the SNAP program.
- Researched possible SNAP program options and waivers that could be implemented to increase access to SNAP for vulnerable populations and increase efficiency.
- Identified a validated two-question screening tool for distribution to organizations serving vulnerable populations. This is part of our developing strategy for attaining greater utilization of food and nutrition programs through collaborations with social service organizations and health care providers that serve vulnerable adult populations.
- Promoted the Commission's Action Plan and work group with partner organizations by participating in presentations and webinars.

SUB-GOAL 3: END HUNGER AND IMPROVE NUTRITION AMONG ALL UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS (IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANT WORKERS, WORKING POOR, INDIVIDUALS INELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS, AND INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES)

ACHIEVEMENT:

- Feeding Illinois (Illinois' food bank association) and the Illinois Department of Human Services worked collaboratively to identify efficiencies and develop and implement new protocols and procedures for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Through these efforts, additional financial resources will be provided to food banks to meet their growing demand.

ACTIVITIES:

- A small work group of food bank members and IDHS staff worked collaboratively to find efficiencies within the TEFAP program. The work group has developed and is implementing new protocols and procedures.
- Surveyed the Illinois Farmers Markets Association members and the Feeding Illinois members and their food pantry agency to obtain information concerning partnership between farmers markets and food banks/pantries. The information gleaned from the survey will aid in developing a toolkit to aid in building collaborations.

GOAL 2: Build needed state infrastructure and foster communication and collaboration among government programs and agencies

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- IDHS staff and Feeding Illinois members engaged in a collaborative process to examine TEFAP and make recommendations for improvements.
- Illinois Fresh Food Fund, under the director of IFF and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, are working to bring grocery stores to underserved areas.

ACTIVITIES:

- Developed a white paper researching agricultural surplus programs that have been implemented in other states as possible models for Illinois.
- The state is leveraging federal funding to develop and implement new technology—a new Integrated Eligibility System (IES) – that will provide customers improved online access and service while also providing both IDHS and HFS with an efficient, modern system that will allow the state to more efficiently and accurately service customers.
- In partnership with the IDHS Office of Grants Administration, the Division of Family & Community Services has secured significant grant funding to develop and implement innovative approaches to better providing Illinoisans access to work support programs that can both help meet their basic needs and help them to achieve self-sufficiency.
- After participating in a one-year planning phase, Illinois was selected to receive three years of Work Support Strategies implementation funding totaling \$1.5 million. This funding is supporting a breadth of work focused on improving business processes in Family Community Resource Centers (FCRCs). The funding is also supporting work to streamline and align policy across programs in order to reduce confusion for customers and workers. Illinois has also received a three-year SNAP Process and Technology Improvement grant from the USDA to support business process improvements in the IDHS FCRCs that will help improve SNAP service delivery.

GOAL 3: Create public awareness of hunger and the solutions

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The Commission held the first Hunger Summit attended by over 250 individuals throughout Illinois representing a variety of public and private organizations.
- Through funding from the Chicago Community Trust, the first-ever statewide family focused website was developed to raise awareness of the Summer Food Service Program.
- With support from Share Our Strength a texting platform was developed to allow parents to text FOODIL to 877877 and receive the three closest SFSP sites to their location.
- Partnered with national partners Share Our Strength, Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), and Bread for the World to activate groups around the state to mobilize around the documentary “A Place at the Table.”

GOAL 4: Build and expand collaborative partnerships between the public and private sector to implement the Commission goals

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Launched the Illinois No Kid Hungry Campaign along with local, state and national partners.
- Engaged private philanthropy to support the No Kid Hungry Campaign's School Breakfast Project to leverage the investment by Share Our Strength.
- Engaged numerous new public and private partners including the Midwest Dairy Council and the Chicago Community Trust to invest in the recommendations in the Action Plan.

NEXT STEPS

Building on the activities and achievements of year one, during year two the Commission members and work groups will:

- Work with the School Breakfast Coordinators to expand school breakfast to more schools.
- Expand the grants available to schools and community organizations to support expansion of school breakfast and summer feeding throughout Illinois.
- Engage stakeholders in developing a School Breakfast public awareness campaign.
- Build a coalition of organizations and individuals to investigate developing an agricultural surplus program for Illinois to optimize agricultural outputs for Illinois farmers and providing fresh produce for the food banks and pantries throughout Illinois.
- Complete a toolkit for outreach between Farmers Markets and food banks/pantries.
- Provide awareness materials of farmers markets that participate in the Electronic Benefits Technology for SNAP benefits to food pantries for referral for the clients.
- Work with the Illinois Department of Human Services to examine possible SNAP options and waivers to reduce barriers older Americans face in accessing SNAP.
- Engage partners and identifying resources to increase the capacity of referral networks to promote awareness of federal nutrition programs for vulnerable populations.

Original Ideas for Student Hunger Report/3 5_year plan	Comments and Notes <small>(Comments/notes/suggestion received at the September 9th meeting are italicized; comments/notes/suggestions received after September 9th are underlined)</small>
<p>Possible Broad Goals - Eliminate Hunger for Students in Maine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve participation rates in all state and federal nutrition programs 	<p><u>Add goal percentage measure of improvement (DOE)</u></p> <p>Should one of the broad goals be something very broad – encompassing the theory behind why we’re tackling this issue? Something along the lines of “recognize the importance of nutritious food in students’ success and support meal programs as a priority during and out of school hours” (CW)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilize successful nutrition programs and best practices throughout the state 	<p><i>Add something to recognize the use of innovative programs and creative partnerships that do not currently exist. (JW)</i></p> <p><i>Is the task force going to actually recommend specific best practices to be followed? (RM) (Or recommend that an entity develop best practices?)</i></p> <p><u>Look to Share our Strength’s site – No Kid Hungry-The Center for Best Practices to use or modify for Maine (http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/). The task force could create a site like this or link directly to the site. See also Back to School Tool Kit (http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/back-school-toolkit); Afterschool Meal Program Assessment Tool (http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/afterschool-meal-program-assessment-tool); and the No Kid Hungry School Calculator (http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/business-model-tool-0) (JW)</u></p> <p><u>Add to this possible broad goal after best practices “from instate, as well as national resources such as, School Nutrition Association, Share Our Strength, National Dairy Council, and FRAC” ... (RA)</u></p> <p><u>Add as a goal or amend existing goal to include: Work with the School Nutrition Association to suggest best practices for school meals (DOE)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve access to food across the state for students 	<p><u>Add – Promote National Best Practices (DOE)</u></p> <p><u>Add healthy/nutritious before food (KM)</u></p> <p><u>Improve awareness and be prepared to take full advantage of any new programs that may become available (RA)</u></p> <p><u>Add as a broad goal the following: Raise awareness of food insecurity so the people of Maine will know that hunger is impacting our children. (RA)</u></p>

Original Ideas for Student Hunger Report/3 5_year plan	Comments and Notes <small>(Comments/notes received at the September 9th meeting are italicized; comments/notes received after September 9 are underlined)</small>
Possible Broad Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand and establish Public Private Partnerships throughout the state to adopt best practices to improve access to food for students 	<p><i>Add and leverage technical assistance and expertise. (RM)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build state infrastructure and increase communication and cooperation among state agencies and school nutrition programs 	<p><i>Create a new database that can be used by both DHHS and DOE to track nutrition programs (TCL)</i></p> <p><u>Edit this action as follows: Build state infrastructure and increase communication and cooperation among state agencies and school nutrition programs. (DOE)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and implement education programs to increase public awareness of programs and de-stigmatize programs 	<p><u>Add – Quarterly meetings with DHHS and DOE (DOE)</u></p> <p><i>Need to demonstrate hunger is an issue in the community so there is more buy in. (GL)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximize the efficiency of federal dollars coming into the state for school nutrition programs 	<p><i>Find ways to provide adequate funding to support summer and after school programs. (RF)</i></p> <p><i>Increase use of CEP and Provision 2 eligibility. (JA)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop metrics and measures of success and track the increase in access to nutrition programs for students 	<p><i>Encourage a culture of excellence that recognizes that there are other contributing factors to a child's success (TCL)(JA)</i></p>
	<p><u>Add the following as a Broad Action: Have DOE apply for a USDA Team Nutrition grant to support this work and begin the transition of the advocated from private funding to state funded. (RA)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop metrics and measures of success and track the increase in access to nutrition programs for students 	<p><u>Add the following as a Broad Action: Recognize the cost of school nutrition in the EPS formula with explicit cost for benefits and a nutrition director being accounted as part of education. (RA)</u></p> <p><i>Make school nutrition programs an integral part of the education process in Maine schools. (RA)</i></p>

Original Ideas for Student Hunger Report/3 5 year plan	Comments and Notes <small>(Comments/notes received at the September 9th meeting are italicized; comments/notes received after September 9 are underlined)</small>
<p>Possible Ideas for Year 1 Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalize the Task Force in statute as the "Commission to End Student Hunger" with members appointed for two years with the possibility to be reappointed. Meet four times a year in different locations throughout the state to hear updates on the status of student hunger, raise awareness of the issue, set deadline and guidelines, and track date. The Commission shall have the power to alter the plan and issue a report every year. 	<p>We may need to further define the role of this Commission vs. the role of the Public/Private Partnerships group. Will it be similar people in each group? For the P/P group, will there be set meeting times, locations – how will that group be organized? (CW).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and fund a full time state liaison between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to monitor student hunger programs and facilitate cooperation and communication between the two departments, and outside entities such as the USDA. 	<p><i>May be able to provide this within current resources. This scope is too limited, may be more beneficial to have someone who can also do more work in the field. (TCL & GL)</i></p> <p>Add to this – quarterly meetings between DOE, DHHS and other federally funded hunger programs (DOE)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test messaging and target audiences to design public awareness campaign. 	<p>Use existing USDA PSA for SFSP (How to get it out, Dept. policies on SAs?; Gov. Office (DOE)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any waivers, statutory changes, program changes, or programs which are being underutilized and secure cooperation from the executive branch to make needed changes. 	<p>Be aware of federal program restrictions, ex. SFSP sites are 50% free/reduced (DOE)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize the hunger coordinators provided by the public private partnerships. 	<p><i>Use existing partnerships like the Healthy Maine Partnerships. (JA) Someone more community-based can be more effective.</i></p> <p><u>What is their job – ID and recruit sponsors and schools (not to get food). Work with schools to implement best practices (DOE)</u></p> <p><u>Do we need to include details about how these positions will be funded? We will need a plan for fundraising. (CW)</u></p>

Original Ideas for Student Hunger Report/3_5_year plan	Comments and Notes <small>(Comments/notes received at the September 9th meeting are italicized; comments/notes received after September 9 are underlined)</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilize the hunger coordinators provided by the public private partnerships... continued 	<p>Amend goal as follows: <u>Design a model and training program (possibly based on the Healthy Maine Partnerships districts) and Utilize the hunger coordinators provided by the public private partnerships to go into counties, school districts, and individual schools to encourage best practices. (JA/VK)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency legislation to establish a CEP working group to set parameters and best practices around the program. 	<p>Amend goal as follows: <u>Emergency legislation to establish a CEP working group to set parameters determine and address barriers and best practices around the program. (DOE)</u></p> <p>Need to obtain school data, cooperation of all programs in the DOE, state funding formula (DOE)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Breakfast Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2,3, 4 and 5) 	<p>Choose 8 schools with a free and reduced rate over 50% but a participation rate under 35% (Assuming 4 advocates) (RA)</p> <p>Amend goal as follows: <u>School Breakfast Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them-enrolled increasing participation using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2, 3, 4, and 5) (DOE)</u></p> <p><u>Enrollment in the Breakfast Program not an issue Strategies: Educate school administration, provide adequate time for breakfast, create fact sheet on Breakfast and Learning, create fact sheet on breakfast delivery methods and successes (DOE)</u></p> <p><u>Why are the participation rate goals schools who are closest to 50% and move them up? I'm assuming that it's because they're considered low hanging fruit. That makes sense to me. But as we move out to later years, I'd rather us do a needs analysis and identify the schools with the lowest participation rates and high eligibility rates and work to move them up to the state average. We first need to establish what the state average is to set the benchmark. Then the long term goal is that we drive the average to x% and the minimum for every district/school to y%. (KM)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Lunch Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2,3, 4 and 5) 	<p>Choose 8 schools with a free and reduced rate over 50% but a participation rate under 50% elementary (Assuming 4 advocates) (RA)</p> <p>Amend goal as follows: <u>School Lunch Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the% threshold and focus on getting them-enrolled increasing participation using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2, 3, 4, and 5) (DOE)</u></p>

Original Ideas for Student Hunger Report/3 5 year plan	Comments and Notes (Comments/notes received at the September 9th meeting are italicized; comments/notes received after September 9 are underlined)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Lunch Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the % threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2,3, 4 and 5)...continued 	<p>Strategies: <u>Legislated amount of time for students to eat, adequate number of lunch periods, educate school administration on hunger and importance of consuming healthy lunches, promote best practices such as recess before lunch, state funding assistance (DOE)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After School Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2,3, 4 and 5) 	<p><u>Improve Quality of meals – see strategy details below (DOE)</u> <u>Add CACFP (TCL)</u></p> <p><u>Choose 8 schools with a free and reduced rate over 50% that also operate a Summer Food Program and can expand to this program. (Assuming 4 advocates) (RA)</u></p> <p><u>Amend goal as follows: After School Meals - Choose X school districts/nonprofit organizations/regions/sites with participation rates near the free and reduced eligibility at 50% or more threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2, 3, 4, and 5) (DOE)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summer Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2,3, 4 and 5) 	<p>Strategies: <u>DOE Outreach Program. DHHS sponsor outreach</u> <u>Include results of efforts in DOE/DHHS quarterly meetings (DOE)</u> <u>Choose 12 schools running SFSP with a participation rate under 20% (Assuming 4 advocates) (RA)</u></p> <p><u>Amend goal as follows: Summer Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. Increase number of sponsors and increase participation at existing meal sites. (Repeat for years 2, 3, 4, and 5) DOE</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CEP - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2,3, 4 and 5) 	<p>Strategies: <u>Educate public on location of meal sites, educate schools on LD 1353 law State funding to improve outreach and support. DOE</u> <u>Choose 8 districts with a Directly Certified rate over 40% and a participation rate under 60% that could qualify and need extra resources to figure this out. (Assuming 4 advocates) (RA)</u></p> <p><u>Amend goal as follows: CEP - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation eligibility rates greater than 40% near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX in CEP. (Repeat for years 2, 3, 4 and 5)</u></p>

Original Ideas for Student Hunger Report/3 5 year plan	Comments and Notes <small>(Comments/notes received at the September 9th meeting are italicized; comments/notes received after September 9 are underlined)</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CEP - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2,3, 4 and 5)...continued ▪ Provision 2 Program - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2, 3, 4 and 5) 	<p><u>Strategies: DOE promote CEP option; Educate administrators on benefits (DOE)</u></p> <p><u>May want to drop this goal or present it as under increasing breakfast - guiding schools to go universal free breakfast. (RA)</u></p> <p><u>Amend goal as follows: Provision 2 Program - Choose X schools districts/regions/sites with high free/reduced eligibility participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2, 3, 4, and 5) DOE</u></p>
	<p><u>Add as goal the following: Design and target metric tracking for school food programs and provide each district or school unit with a sourced and independently audited analysis of their district spending. (JA/VK)</u></p>
Possible Ideas for Year 2 Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roll out public awareness campaign to target audiences with mailings and PSA's. Also focus on social media to help de-stigmatize student hunger programs. 	<p><u>What department, who will fund? (DOE)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have "Symposium on Maine Student Hunger" and invite all food service directors, school board members, hunger advocates, state officials etc. to a large scale conference (Public awareness campaign could be rolled out here) to present the first report of the Commission and to highlight the gains of the first year. 	<p><u>Who, when, self-supporting, i.e. charge a fee to attend? Link to CAP Agencies Poverty Conferences? Another meeting – What am I going to get out of it? (DOE)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create state grant program for hunger in the Department of Education to award small grants to school districts that need extra funding to move their participation rates. 	<p><u>For SFSP beginning grants, first 2 years, Good Shepherd model? School meals – increase participation – implementing a best practice Equipment, operational costs, transportation meals and/or students (DOE)</u></p>

Original Ideas for Student Hunger Report/3 5_year plan	Comments and Notes <small>(Comments/notes received at the September 9th meeting are italicized; comments/notes received after September 9 are underlined)</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and utilize existing best practices to get more local food to school nutrition programs. 	<p><u>Strategy – establish a full time position to provide central management of local foods to local schools. Currently all done locally or regionally (DOE)</u></p> <p><u>Secure funding for the existing Local Produce Fund at DOE/child nutrition office. Already exists, no funding provided. (RA)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and utilize available USDA demonstration and pilot projects. 	<p><u>Remove this goal - DOE does this now – This year – Ex. FFVP Pilot project, Procurement of unprocessed F & V, grant to improve direct certification to maximize CEP (DOE)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor the status of federal programs and make recommendations for best practices. 	<p><u>Instead of saying “utilize” we might want to say “apply for” because we are not guaranteed participation in these projects. (CW)</u></p> <p><u>Refer to federal nutrition programs. (TCL)</u></p> <p><u>Amend goal as follows: Monitor the status of federal meals and snack programs and make recommendations for best practices. (DOE)</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake the same nutrition program initiatives as in year one, updated for Year 2. 	<p><u>Should we specifically refer to Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) which will be passed in Sept. 2015? This is where changes would occur that we would want to monitor and take advantage of. (CW)</u></p> <p><u>In years 2 and 3 increase the numbers of initiatives. (JA)</u></p>
Possible Ideas for Year 3 Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fund the transition or creation of hunger coordinators in the Department of Education or the Department of Human Services. 	<p><u>Define duties (DOE)</u></p>
	<p><u>Add - USDA Team nutrition grant application to secure funding to begin transition of advocates to DOE/Child Nutrition office.(RA)</u></p>

Original Ideas for Student Hunger Report/3 5 year plan	Comments and Notes <small>(Comments/notes received at the September 9th meeting are italicized; comments/notes received after September 9 are underlined)</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake the same nutrition program initiatives as in year one, updated for Year 3. 	<p>Ensure in the text of the actual report that the initiatives to increase participation using best practices for the School Breakfast Program, School Lunch Program, After School Meals, Summer Meals, CEP, and Provision 2 includes the language used in year 1 for each program separately.</p>
Possible Ideas for Year 4 Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake the same nutrition program initiatives as in year one, updated for Year 4. 	<p>Ensure in the text of the actual report that the initiatives to increase participation using best practices for the School Breakfast Program, School Lunch Program, After School Meals, Summer Meals, CEP, and Provision 2 includes the language used in year 1 for each program separately.</p>
Possible Ideas for Year 5 Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake the same nutrition program initiatives as in year one, updated for Year 5. 	<p>Ensure in the text of the actual report that the initiatives to increase participation using best practices for the School Breakfast Program, School Lunch Program, After School Meals, Summer Meals, CEP, and Provision 2 includes the language used in year 1 for each program separately.</p>

Additional suggestions provided

Improve Quality of Meals

- 1) Improve skills of cooks
 - a. Hands on DOE workshops
 - b. Culinary skills in working with available kitchen equipment
 - c. Utilize Chefs to School Program
- 2) Improve kitchen facilities
 - a. Re-establish state funded equipment grants administered by DOE
 - b. Requirement for all new school construction to meet full kitchen standards for production kitchens
 - c. Funding for renovations to turn non-production kitchens into production kitchens (production kitchens vs central kitchens) (DOE)

Another comment that the commenter did not feel fit into any particular box/category is based on the common message being heard that increasing participation starts at the top – the superintendent needs to be on board and then be able to rally the principals. It was suggested that a goal (rather within the plan or part of establishing the formal commission) be to work with the organizing/governing body for the superintendents to bring them into the task force. We need to make feeding kids as important (or at least in the top priority) as test scores.(CW)

Ideas for Student Hunger Report/5-year plan

Possible Broad Goals - Eliminate Hunger for Students in Maine

- Improve participation rates in all state and federal nutrition programs by xx% (DOE)
- Utilize successful nutrition programs and best practices from instate as well as national resources such as School Nutrition Association, Share Our Strength, National Dairy Council, and FRAC throughout the state (RA)
- Work with SNA to suggest best practices for school meals (DOE)
- Promote National Best Practices (DOE)
- Improve access to healthy/nutritious food across the state for students (KM)
- Improve awareness and be prepared to take full advantage of any new programs that may become available. (RA)
- Raise awareness of food insecurity so the people of Maine will know that hunger is impacting our children. (RA)

Comment [SD1]: Should one of the broad goals be something very broad – encompassing the theory behind why we’re tackling this issue? Something along the lines of “recognize the importance of nutritious food in students’ success and support meal programs as a priority during and out of school hours” (CW)

Comment [SD2]: Add something to recognize the use of innovative programs and creative partnerships that do not currently exist (JW)
Is the task force going to actually recommend specific best practices to be followed? (RW)

Or recommend that an entity develop best practices?
Look to Share our Strength’s site – No Kid Hungry- The Center for Best Practices to use or modify for Maine (<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/>). The task force could create a site like this or link directly to the site. See also Back to School Tool Kit (<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/back-school-toolkit/>), Afterschool Meal Program Assessment Tool (<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/afterschool-meal-program-assessment-tool/>), and the No Kid Hungry School Calculator (<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/business-model-tool-0/>) (JW)

Possible Broad Actions

- Expand and establish Public Private Partnerships throughout the state to adopt best practices to improve access to food for students and leverage technical assistance and expertise. (RM)
- Build state infrastructure and increase communication and cooperation among state agencies and school nutrition programs (DOE)
- Quarterly meetings with DHHS and DOE (DOE)
- Create a new database that can be used by both DHHS and DOE to track nutrition programs. (TCL)
- Develop and implement education programs to increase public awareness of programs and de-stigmatize programs

Comment [SD3]: Need to demonstrate hunger is an issue in the community, so there is more buy-in. (GL-DOE)

- Maximize the efficiency of federal dollars coming into the state for school nutrition programs (JA)
- Develop metrics and measures of success and track the increase in access to nutrition programs for students (JA)
- Make school nutrition programs an integral part of the education process in Maine schools. (RA)
- Have DOE apply for a USDA Team Nutrition grant to support this work and begin the transition of advocates from private funding to state funded. (RA)
- Recognize the cost of school nutrition in the EPS formula with explicit cost for benefits and a nutrition director being accounted as part of education. (RA)

Comment [SD4]: Find ways to provide adequate funding to support summer and after school programs (RF)

Increase use of CEP and Provision 2 eligibility (JA)

Refer to school and after school programs (GL-DOE)

Establish reliable, stable funding for these programs (RM)

Examine current funding model to see if there would be benefits if EPS included funding for food service (RM)

Comment [SD5]: Encourage a culture of excellence that recognizes that there are other contributing factors to a child's success (TCL)(JA)

Possible Ideas for Year 1 Goals

- Formalize the Task Force in statute as the "Commission to End Student Hunger" with members appointed for two years with the possibility to be reappointed. Meet four times a year in different locations throughout the state to hear updates on the status of student hunger, raise awareness of the issue, set deadline and guidelines, and track dates. The Commission shall have the power to alter the plan and issue a report every year (JA)
- Create and fund a full time state liaison between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to monitor student hunger programs and facilitate cooperation and communication between the two departments, and outside entities such as the [USDA] (JA)
- Design and target metric tracking for school food programs and provide each district or school unite with a sourced and independently audited analysis of their district spending. (JA/VK)
- Test messaging and target audiences to design public awareness campaign (JA)
- Identify any waivers, statutory changes, program changes, or programs which are being underutilized and secure cooperation from the executive branch to make needed changes (JA)
- Design a model and training program (possibly based on the Healthy Maine Partnerships districts) and utilize the hunger coordinators provided by the public private partnerships to go into counties, school districts, and individual schools to encourage best practices. (JA/VK)

Comment [SD6]: We may need to further define the role of this Commission vs. the role of the Public/Private Partnerships group. Will it be similar people in each group? For the P/P group, will there be set meeting times, locations – how will that group be organized? (CW)

Comment [SD7]: May be able to provide this within current resources. This scope is too limited – may be more beneficial to have someone who can also do more work in the field (TCL) (GL-DOE)

Quarterly meeting between DOE, DHHS and other federally funded

Comment [SD8]: Use existing USDA PSA for SFSP... How to get it out? Dept. policies on SAs? Gov. Office? (DOE)

Comment [SD9]: Be aware of federal program restrictions, ex. SFSP sites are 50% free/reduced (DOE)

Comment [SD10]: Use existing partnerships like the Healthy Maine Partnerships (JA)

Someone more community-based can be more effective.

What is their job – ID and recruit sponsors and schools (not to get food). Work with schools to implement best practices (DOE)

Do we need to include details about how these positions will be funded? We will need a plan for fundraising. (CW)

- Emergency legislation to establish a CEP working group to set parameters-determine and address barriers and best practices around the program. (DOE)
- School Breakfast Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled increasing participation using the best practices of XXX. (DOE) OR Choose 8 schools with a free and reduced rate over 50%, but a participation rate under 35% (Assuming 4 advocates) (RA)
- School Lunch Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the a xx% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled increasing participation using the best practices of XXX. (DOE) OR Choose 8 schools with a free and reduced rate over 50%, but a participation rate under 50% elementary (Assuming 4 advocates) RA
- After School Meals/CACFP - Choose X school districts/nonprofit organization regions/sites with free and reduced eligibility at participation rates near the 50% or more threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (TCL) (DOE) OR Choose 8 schools with a free and reduced rate over 50% that also operate a Summer Food Program and expand this program (Assuming 4 advocates) (RA)
- Summer Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. Increase number of sponsors, increase participation at existing meal sites. (DOE) OR Choose 12 schools running SFSP with a participation rate under 20% (Assuming 4 advocates) (RA)
- CEP - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation eligibility rates near the XX greater than 40% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled in CEP, using the best practices of XXX. (DOE) OR Choose 8 school districts with a directly certified rate over 40% and a participation rate under 60% that could qualify and need extra resources to figure this out. (RA)
- Provision 2 Program - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with high free/reduced eligibility participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (DOE)

Comment [SD11]: Need to obtain school data, cooperation of all programs in the DOE, state funding formula (DOE)

Comment [SD12]: Enrollment in the Breakfast Program not an issue. Strategies: Educate school administration, provide adequate time for breakfast, create fact sheet on breakfast and learning, create fact sheet on breakfast delivery methods and successes (DOE)

Why are the participation rate goals schools who are closest to 50% and move them up? I'm assuming that it's because they're considered low hanging fruit. That makes sense to me. But as we move out to later years, I'd rather us do a needs analysis and identify the schools with the lowest participation rates and high eligibility rates and work to move them up to the state average. We first need to establish what the state average is to set the benchmark. Then the long term goal is that we drive the average to x% and the minimum for every district/school to y%. (CW)

Comment [SD13]: Strategies: Legislated amount of time for students to eat, adequate number of lunch periods, educate school administration on hunger and importance of consuming healthy lunches. Promote best practices such as recess before lunch. State funding assistance (DOE) Improve Quality of meals – see strategy details below (DOE)

Comment [SD14]: Strategies: DOE Outreach Program DHHS sponsor outreach Include results of efforts in DOE/DHHS quarterly meetings (DOE)

Comment [SD15]: Strategies: Educate public on location of meal sites, Educate schools on LD 1353 law State funding to improve outreach and support (DOE)

Comment [SD16]: Strategies: DOE promote CEP option. Educate administrators on benefits (DOE)

Comment [SD17]: Strategies: DOE promote CEP option. Educate administrators on benefits (DOE)

REMOVE THIS GOAL or present it under increasing breakfast – guiding schools to go to universal free breakfast (RA)

Comment [SD18]: What department? Who will fund? (DOE)

Possible Ideas for Year 2 Goals

- Roll out public awareness campaign to target audiences with mailings and PSA's. Also focus on social media to help de-stigmatize student hunger programs.

- Have "Symposium on Maine Student Hunger" and invite all food service directors, school board members, hunger advocates, state officials etc to a large scale conference (Public awareness campaign could be rolled out here) to present the first report of the Commission and to highlight the gains of the first year.
- Create state grant program for hunger in the Department of Education to award small grants to school districts that need extra funding to move their participation rates.
- Identify and utilize existing best practices to get more local food to school nutrition programs.
- Identify and utilize available USDA demonstration and pilot projects.
- Monitor the status of federal meals and snacks programs and make recommendations for best practices. (DOE)
- School Breakfast Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- School Lunch Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the % threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- After School Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- Summer Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- CEP - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- Provision 2 Program - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.

Comment [SD19]: Who, when, self-supporting, i.e. charge a fee to attend? Link to CAP Agencies Poverty Conferences? Another meeting – What am I going to get out of it? (DOE)

Comment [SD20]: For SFSP beginning grants, first 2 years, Good Shepherd model? School meals – increase participation – implementing a best practice Equipment, operational costs, transportation meals and/or students (DOE)

Comment [SD21]: Strategy – establish a full time position to provide central management of local foods to local schools. Currently all done locally or regionally (DOE)

Secure funding for the existing Local Produce Fund at DOE/child nutrition office (already exists, no funding provided). (RA)

Comment [SD22]: REMOVE THIS GOAL - DOE does this now – This year - Ex FFVP Pilot project, Procurement of unprocessed F & V, grant to improve direct certification to maximize CEP (DOE)

Instead of saying “utilize” we might want to say “apply for” because we are not guaranteed participation in these projects. (CW)

Comment [SD23]: Refer to federal nutrition programs (TCL)

Should we specifically refer to Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) which will be passed in Sept. 2015? This is where changes would occur that we would want to monitor and take advantage of. (CW)

Comment [SD24]: For all in subsequent years increase the number of initiatives (JA)

Possible Ideas for Year 3 Goals

- Fund the transition or creation of hunger coordinators in the Department of Education or the Department of Human Services.
- School Breakfast Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- School Lunch Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- After School Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- Summer Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- CEP - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- Provision 2 Program - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- USDA Team nutrition grant application to secure funding to begin transition of advocated to DOE/Child Nutrition office. (RA)

Comment [SD25]: Define duties (DOE)

Possible Ideas for Year 4 Goals (JA/VK)

- School Breakfast Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- School Lunch Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- After School Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- Summer Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.

- CEP - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- Provision 2 Program - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.

Possible Ideas for Year 5 Goals (JA/VK)

- School Breakfast Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- School Lunch Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- After School Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- Summer Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- CEP - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.
- Provision 2 Program - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX.

Additional comments/suggestions

Improve Quality of Meals

- 1) Improve skills of cooks
 - a. Hands on DOE workshops
 - b. Culinary skills in working with available kitchen equipment
 - c. Utilize Chefs to School Program
- 2) Improve kitchen facilities
 - a. Re-establish state funded equipment grants administered by DOE
 - b. Requirement for all new school construction to meet full kitchen standards for production kitchens
 - c. Funding for renovations to turn non-production kitchens into production kitchens (production kitchens vs central kitchens) (DOE)

Another comment that the commenter did not feel fit into any particular box/category is based on the common message being heard that increasing participation starts at the top – the superintendent needs to be on board and then be able to rally the principals. It was suggested that a goal (rather within the plan or part of establishing the formal commission) be to work with the organizing/governing body for the superintendents to bring them into the task force. We need to make feeding kids as important (or at least in the top priority) as test scores.(CW)

Orbeton, Jane

From: tony@childhoodfoodsolutions.org
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 1:24 AM
To: Orbeton, Jane
Subject: FWD: RE: Agenda - Task Force to End Student Hunger - October 6, 2014 CORRECTED
Attachments: Winter Break Food Safety Net for Maine.docx

Dear Deirdre and Jane,

I am attaching a CORRECTED Proposal for your Public Comment Period. Please ignore my earlier email attachment.

In Cincinnati, we are now taking an incredibly simple approach - if school lunch is of value to our students and their families, the least we can do is provide the calories students miss when they miss school lunch during their winter and summer breaks. The attached Proposal is to replace the calories food-insecure Maine students miss during winter break by providing schools with sacks of groceries for students to take home for winter break.

Kind regards,

Tony

Anthony J. Fairhead, MBA, B. Pharm.
Executive Director
Childhood Food Solutions
513-910-4162

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Agenda - Task Force to End Student Hunger - October 6, 2014
From: "Schneider, Deirdre" <Deirdre.Schneider@legislature.maine.gov>
Date: 10/3/14 3:23 pm
To: "Schneider, Deirdre" <Deirdre.Schneider@legislature.maine.gov>

Attached is the agenda for the October 6, 2014 meeting of the Task Force to End Student Hunger. The meeting will be from 9:30-3:30 in Room 209 of the Cross Office Building in Augusta, Maine.

Deirdre Schneider

Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

(207) 287-1670

deirdre.schneider@legislature.maine.gov

Closing the Food Equity Gap for Students at Risk and in Poverty

Proposal: Provide a “food safety net” for students of the State of Maine for Winter Break, 2014. Schools offer sacks of groceries just before winter break for students to take home.

This Proposal is based on three principles:

1. The two largest nutritional gaps for food-insecure children occur during winter break and summer break. Addressing the winter break gap sets the stage for addressing the larger summer break gap.
2. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is only an emergency response to keep children alert in school. A chronic lack of nutrition on many of their non-school days impedes the physical, mental and emotional development of food-insecure children. The long-term solution for childhood food insecurity is to extend the NSLP to provide nutrition for non-school days.
3. During winter break some families receive holiday food but little remains after the 26th of December and there are still 5 more days of missed lunches and few food pantries and soup kitchens open.

Calculation of Need:

Last year 86,473 Maine students received free or reduced-price lunch on school days. Many of the students and their families depend on this “food safety net” to supplement their nutrition. During winter break, each student will miss 10 school lunches of about 750 calories.

Calculation for missed lunches: $86,473 \times 10 \times 750 \text{ calories} = 648,547,500$ “calorie gap”

Draft Plan:

1. The State of Maine resolves to target filling the winter break 649 million “calorie gap” for students receiving free or reduced-price lunch.
2. The State of Maine partners with Childhood Food Solutions (CFS) to design the sack contents, packing and management of the project.
3. State, County, City, Community Partners and Businesses come together to advocate, raise awareness and leverage resources for funding, procurement and sustainability, including developing a plan for summer break, 2015.
4. Implementation will require seven weeks and must begin on November 3, 2014.

Supporting Data:

1. National statistics show that the SNAP "food stamp" benefit runs out before the end of the month. Sampling in Cincinnati zip code 45225 (a zip code of poverty neighborhoods) showed that 90% of the month's benefit is spent off the debit card within 3 days.
2. CFS has developed methods that have filled the winter break and summer break "calorie gaps" for the students of zip code 45225 for 6 years. Academics have improved:

<u>Students in Grades 3 through 6:</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>Gain</u>
% of students achieving reading proficiency	32.1	64.5	201%
% of students achieving math proficiency	29.4	48.0	63%

This has been a period when many schools have made great strides but the 45225 gain is remarkable because 45225 is the tenth poorest zip code in Ohio. It includes N. Fairmount, Millvale and the Villages at Roll Hill (formerly the Fay Apartments).

3. CFS provides calorie-dense groceries. High school students do not choose to carry sacks of food home so distribution has to be through elementary school students. This is an example of a 10,000-calorie sack. 63,900 of these sacks would provide 649 million calories. This sack weighs about 7 pounds and can be carried by students:

Item	# in Sack	Servings	Calories	Cost (\$)
Graham crackers	2 boxes	26	3,640	2.78
Peanut butter*	1 jar	16	3,040	1.49
Breakfast bars	2 boxes	16	2,240	3.78
Austin cheese crackers	4 packs	4	760	0.52
Nutritional bars	2 packs	2	360	0.51
Totals	11 items	64	10,040	9.22

* For peanut-sensitive students, a third box of graham crackers and a jar of grape jelly may be substituted for the peanut butter.

Note: Total cost of this Proposal will be about \$589,000.

To: Judy Campbell, President of the Maine School Nutrition Association (MSNA)
From: Marge Kilkelly, Senior Policy Advisor for U.S. Senator Angus S. King Jr.,
Margaret Richardson, Agricultural Policy Intern
Date: July 7, 2014
Re: Possible School Nutrition Proposals for Consideration by USDA

Thank you for reaching out to our offices regarding the issues with school nutrition that Maine schools are facing. These are the four proposals that we have identified to target the issues of concern to you and the other Directors.

At this time, as we discussed, there is uncertainty about when appropriations bills might come before the Senate, therefore we are forwarding these proposals to USDA in hopes that there is an opportunity for some issues to be addressed through administrative actions.

We would appreciate any feedback you or your colleagues might have and look forward to working with you and the Maine School Nutrition Assoc. to facilitate a dialogue with USDA on these and other issues.

Four Proposals

1. Create a School Nutrition Advisory Committee (SNAC) to advise the USDA
2. Delay implementation of the Competitive A La Carte options for schools until 2016.
3. In SY 2014-15 allow a "No, thank you – Taste" option to allow children to taste healthy foods without taking the full amount
4. Evaluate the impact of volume purchasing for rural school nutrition programs to consider a "Geographic Isolation Bonus"

School Nutrition Advisory Committee (SNAC)

School Nutrition Program Directors need to have more of an opportunity to communicate with the USDA as policies are being developed as they are responsible for final implementation. Thus, we are proposing a School Nutrition Advisory Committee (SNAC) to the USDA comprised of Food Service Directors from across the nation and members from relevant industries to advise the USDA. (attached)

- A School Nutrition Advisory Committee (SNAC) is a natural step in the forward progression and improvement of the USDA's policies and to develop a clear line of communication between Directors and regulators.
- USDA already has committees that advise on various subjects from trade in animals and animal products to organic standards, poultry improvement and many more.
- School Nutrition Programs are vitally important to students, parents and school systems nationwide. A committee comprised of people who work with the program every day will create a better understanding of schools economic and nutritional capacity and will facilitate for the smooth implementation of not only the Healthy Hunger Free Kids program but the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act in 2015.

- The attached proposal has 10 School Food Service Directors representing a variety of school systems from each region reside and 10 national members selected from relevant industries and a representative from the Small Business Administration.

A La Carte Proposal

School Nutrition Programs receive revenue from the federal state and local governments, but that is seldom enough to sustain a program. Most schools supplement their income by operating an a la carte line that sells a variety of foods at regular retail value. In this way many School Nutrition Programs operate as a small business within the structure of the public schools.

Under the 2013 standards under the new USDA restrictions, “a la carte” foods have to comply with the set limits on fats, calories, sugars, and sodium. The fatty foods in a la carte lines have already been replaced with healthier alternatives like baked chips, trail mix, diet sodas, yogurts, salads, lower-calorie sports drinks and low-fat hamburgers. Additional restrictions on ala carte items are set to go into effect on July 1, 2014. This change will likely reduce revenue for schools at a time when their costs are increasing. Delaying this requirement will provide some regulatory and financial breathing room for struggling schools.

- The a la carte lines are an important revenue resource for schools.
- School Nutrition Programs have to operate like a small business, making enough revenue to continue to feed their children
- Schools are not getting what they need from the public sector.
- We propose implementation of these standards starting in FY 2016. This allows schools an opportunity to move towards compliance requirements while maintaining a revenue stream

No, Thank You – Taste Proposal

Under the current requirements, chefs are required to pass out ½ cup of vegetables and fruits at lunch if the school has an offer vs. serve option. Otherwise, the lunch must include ¾ vegetables and ½ cups of fruit. Children are required to take this amount which will increase to 1 cup in the 2014-15 SY. The breakfast requirement in 2014-15 will increase to include 1 cup of fruit or vegetable as well.

This is a well-intentioned effort for schools to “educate” children’s palettes and begin to teach children how to enjoy a variety of healthy foods. While a Harvard study in Massachusetts states the new standards did not result in an increased average food waste per person, individual schools are in fact reporting a high rate of waste. One Maine Food Service Director discussed a day when her program served 138lbs. of vegetables and 90lbs of vegetables were scraped into waste. This was similar to stories from other Maine Directors.

Furthermore, children are less likely to come back for school lunches if they have had an upsetting experience getting lunch. While it may seem like a minor issue, Dr. Anne Marie Albano of the Columbia University Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders (CUCARD) agreed that for some children, certain foods can be anxiety producing. Often times, children who have anxieties about food have had a bad experience – such as choking or vomiting – with a certain food or texture; thus, when confronted with that food or a food similar to it, they will

refuse to eat it. In her experience, exposing these children to foods a small amount at a time – a process known as “exposure” – is the most effective way to increase their tolerance and even enjoyment of food. In her opinion, the “No, thank you-taste” option is an excellent “stepping up” plan that would help expose children to foods they may not think they would otherwise enjoy.

- A “No, thank you – Taste” option for SY 2014-15 would allow a 1/4 of a cup of the vegetable or fruit that the student would like to reject would satisfy the requirement.
- USDA, in conjunction with Food Service Directors will study ways to reduce plate waste and report recommendations to the appropriate Committee.
- This option would allow the chefs to encourage the students to “taste” the food without forcing a large amount on them.
- We believe that students will be more likely to try the option if they do not feel intimidated by the amount of the seemingly undesirable food on their plate.
- Further, this will gradually increase and develop young children’s palettes and the next time they see that food item, if they enjoyed it, they will take the full amount.

The Geographic Isolation Bonus Issue/Background

School food authorities that are certified to be in compliance with the updated meal requirements receive an additional six cents of federal cash reimbursement for each meal served. This increase does not come close to covering the current additional expenses and will fall even further behind as new requirements are put in place in SY 2014-15. Small rural schools are particularly hard hit by scale and lack of ability to negotiate prices.

Higher reimbursement rates are in effect for Alaska and Hawaii in recognition of their higher costs. There is also a higher reimbursement rate for school districts with higher rates of low income students. Rural school districts that are far away from manufacturing sites and even when they are using all available resources they are still being disadvantaged by their size which in turn, reduces their ability to negotiate prices of food and transportation. Their higher costs to implement the same regulations as a larger urban school should be reflected in the funding formula.

- FY 2015: evaluate the increased costs to rural schools based on low volume purchasing and higher transportation costs and the impact this has on the viability of rural school nutrition programs.
- USDA report the data and recommendations to the appropriate congressional Committees.

For further information please contact:

Marge Kilkelly
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Senator Angus S. King Jr
SD 359 – Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-228-1467
Email: Marge_Kilkelly@king.senate.gov

Statement of Justification for the School Nutrition Advisory Committee

As a supporting effort to the school environment and student's education, the School Nutrition Program plays a significant role in bettering the health and well-being of students. The School Nutrition Program ensures that students receive foods that are based on nutritional standards, limits certain nutrients, and provides nutritional materials and professional growth opportunities for school nutritional staff. Due to its significant impact on the lives of students, it is important to create a nexus between those who implement these strategies and policies and the recipients of these programs. Therefore, we are proposing the creation of the School Nutrition Advisory Committee (SNAC).

The USDA has committees that advise on various subjects such as trade in animal and animal products, fruits and vegetables, the dairy and fruit and vegetable industry, dietary guidelines, meat and poultry inspection, grain inspection, organic standards, poultry improvement and many more. The creation of the School Nutrition Advisory Committee is a natural step in the forward progression and improvement of the USDA's policies and understanding of the School Nutrition Programs. These programs are vitally important to school systems nationwide and committee designated to the understanding of schools economic and nutritional need is essential for the USDA to move forward and improve the regulation and standards set for our children's health. The various perspectives and expertise of the members of the proposed Committee are crucial resources that will serve the USDA in an advisory capacity.

Furthermore, these programs are small businesses that need to earn money as well as receive money from state and federal funding. Their unique place in education will be better understood by the USDA with the appointment of the Committees Federal Representative from the Small Business Association.

1. Official Designation
 - a. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) School Nutrition Advisory Committee (SNAC)
2. General Summary
 - a. SNAC will meet twice annually to advise the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the programs and services it delivers to school nutrition programs across the country and the economics of school's nutrition needs. Recommendations by the committee will help the USDA to better meet the needs of its constituents nationwide.
 - b. The committee will be comprised of 50 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. 40 members will represent the Northeastern, Southern, Western and Midwestern regions of the nation. The remaining 10 members will represent all different aspects of the school nutrition industry.
3. Membership breakdown
 - a. 10 members chosen from the Food Service Directors of the Northeastern region
 - b. 10 members chosen from the Food Service Directors of the Southern region
 - c. 10 members chosen from the Food Service Directors of the Western region
 - d. 10 members chosen from the Food Service Directors of the Midwestern region
 - e. 10 members chosen from relevant industries concerning school nutrition and food business such as university nutrition advisors, a member of SBA, members of the

MD and health community, the School Nutrition Program, the Food and Research Action Center, HHFKA, food economists, etc.

- i. Also included is one Federal Representative from the Small Business Association (SBA)
- f. Structure: Chairperson
 - i. Sets agenda (*issues, dates and location*)
 - ii. solicits public participation through Federal Register Notices
 - iii. gathers committee input through discussion
 - iv. reviews Agency priorities
 - v. Briefs Committee on issues
 - vi. provides advance background materials to Committee
 - vii. coordinates briefings by Agency officials on the issue
 - viii. provides the use of E-mail and other telecommunications
 - ix. organizes the Sub-Committees to achieve a balance of members with a variety of views on each issue
 - x. Organizes the Committee to study issues
 - xi. Provides administrative support to the Committee, including meeting materials, facilities, and travel vouchers
 - xii. Consolidates recommendations proposed by the Committee for forwarding through the Under Secretary for Food Safety to Secretary of Agriculture
- g. Committee
 - i. Meets and discusses issues
 - ii. outlines concerns
 - iii. plans next steps
 - iv. prepares documentation of outcomes on issue
 - v. Chairperson records concerns
 - vi. Makes recommendations to Chairperson for assignment of the issue to a Sub-Committee for further study
- h. Sub-Committee
 - i. expected outcomes
 - ii. identify issues
 - iii. tracks outcomes of issues and concerns
 - iv. answers to specific questions raised
 - v. write up activities
 - vi. make contacts with others and report back findings
 - vii. meets separately to discuss issues
 - viii. outlines concerns of issue and facilitates discussion
 - ix. develops action plan to study issue in detail
 - x. assigns tasks to members
 - xi. briefs and makes recommendations to the Committee

4. Objectives

- a. The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary concerning State and Federal programs with respect to school nutrition, school lunches, food budgets, and other matters that fall within the scope of school and nutrition. The major role of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on school nutrition policies that will contribute to USDA's regulatory policy development

5. Description of Duties
 - a. The duties of the Committee are solely advisory in nature.
6. The Agency or Official to Whom the Committee reports
 - a. The Committee reports to the Secretary of Agriculture
7. Support
 - a. The USDA will provide administrative staff support to the Committee
8. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years
 - a. The total budget for the National Advisory Committee on School Nutrition will be \$147,058 per fiscal year, with 25% of one full time employee (FTE). In the performance of their duties away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee members may be allowed reimbursement for travel expenses including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5704.¹
9. Designated Federal Officer
 - a. A member of the Small Business Association (SBA) will act as the designated Federal officer
10. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings
 - a. The Committee will meet 2 times a year and the subcommittees will meet as deemed necessary by the Chairperson
 - b. Regional members may also convene once a year at the discretion of the Chair
11. Subcommittees
 - a. The Committee and the USDA has the authority to create subcommittees. Subcommittees must report back to the parent committee, and must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency.

¹ Taken from the National Advisory Committee on Meat & Poultry Inspection Committee Charter, Section 7 "Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years"
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/advisory-committees/nacmpi/nacmpi-charter>

FOOD SECURITY IN MAINE, CUMBERLAND COUNTY & PORTLAND

We all want Maine people, regardless of where they live, to have access to the opportunities that allow them to be healthy. What you might not know is that today, many Maine families are having a difficult time putting food on their tables. People are not deprived of food because food is unavailable in the market, but rather because their ability to get that food is restricted, most often by limited income.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) defines food security as “access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.” In 2013, Maine ranked fifth in the nation for people experiencing very low food security. Very Low Food Security is when eating patterns of one or more household members were disrupted and food intake reduced because the household lacked money and other resources for food. Previously called “hunger,” the USDA began referring to this condition as very low food security in 2006, though the methods used to assess it remained the same. Over the last 10 years, with the exception of Missouri, **Maine has experienced the largest increase in “hunger” in the nation.**

Maine	1996-1998	2001-2005	2008-2010	2011-2013
Food Insecure	9.8%	9.2%	15.4%	15.1%
Very Low Food Security (Hunger)	4%	2.9%	6.8%	7.1%

The food stamp program is now known as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). In August 2014, Cumberland County lists 34,752 people needing SNAP including 12,099 children. Over one-third of all students live in families whose income qualify them for free and reduced price school meals. In Portland, during the 2013-2014 school year, about 50% of the students were eligible for free meals. This means that every other Portland Public School student lived in a household with an annual incomes, e.g., in a family of four, of less than \$30,000. That was a total of 3,510 kids. Recent data for Portland (August 2014), lists 4,490 children under 18 in households using SNAP.

Portland School Meal Eligibility	2003-2004	2008-2009	2013-2014
Free (below 130% of poverty)	2,648 (35.3%)	2,885 (41.6%)	3,510 (49.9%)
Total (below 185% of poverty)	2,958 (39.5%)	3,126 (45.1%)	3,762 (53.6%)

It's Not Just About Food

With food insecurity a daily reality for thousands of children in Portland, we must increase our sense of urgency about how to address the problem. Raw poverty is obvious when we encounter it, but there is a range of experience as we move from food security to those extreme conditions. Understanding that continuum lets us identify and target effective strategies, and make the best investments to increase food security for all members of our community. **Understanding the problem makes you part of the solution.**

How can we all work together to build strength in our community?

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