



Fighting Food Insecurity During COVID-19 and Beyond: Updates for County Leaders

NACo Webinar | February 5, 2021

Webinar Agenda

Introduction	Cathy Senderling-Mcdonald	Director <i>County Welfare Directors Association of California</i>
Legislative Update	Chu-Yuan Hwang	Senior Counsel <i>House Committee on Agriculture (Majority)</i>
National Advocacy Perspective	Robert Campbell	Managing Director, Policy <i>Feeding America</i>
County Food Insecurity Efforts	Anthony Trotman	Deputy County Manager <i>Mecklenburg County, North Carolina</i>
Audience Q & A <i>Submit questions via Q&A box or to questions@naco.org</i>	Rachel Mackey	Associate Legislative Director of Human Services and Education <i>NACo</i>

Legislative Update

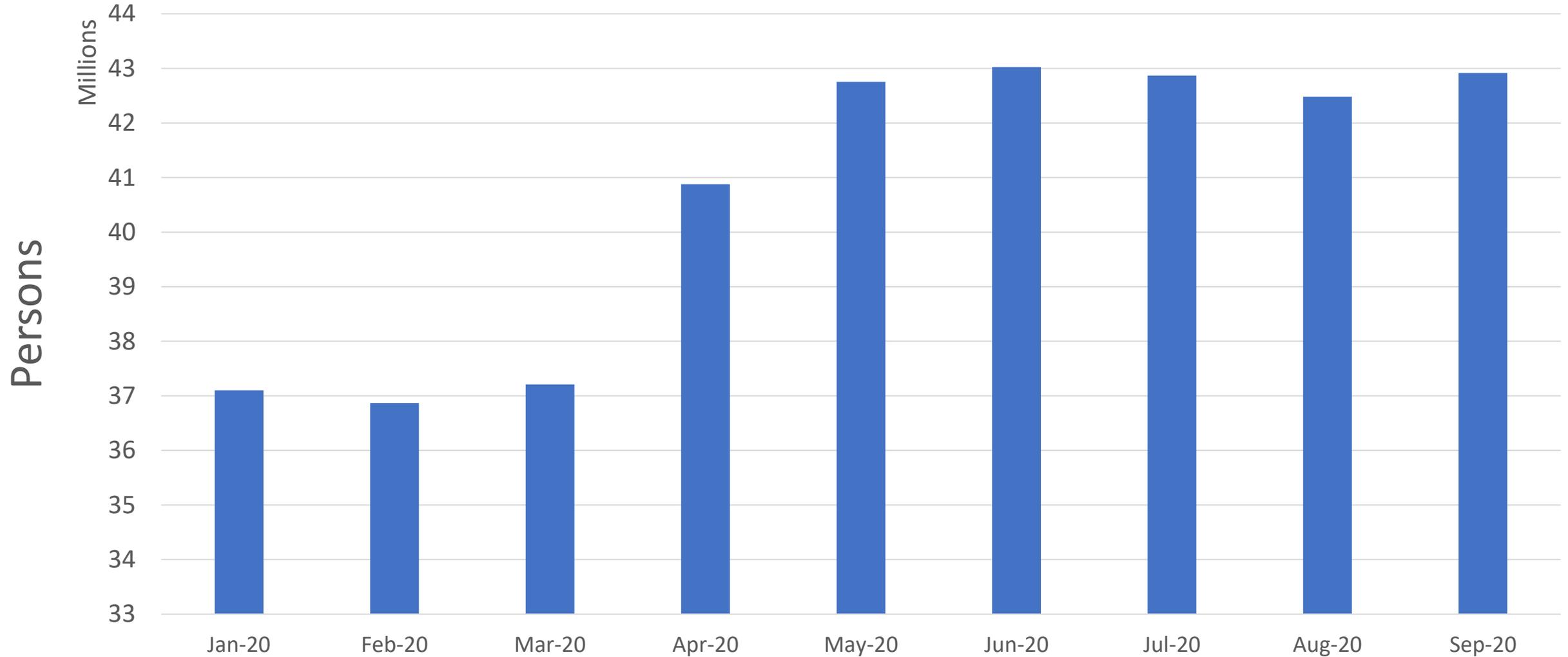
Chu-Yuan Hwang

Senior Counsel

House Agriculture Committee (Majority)

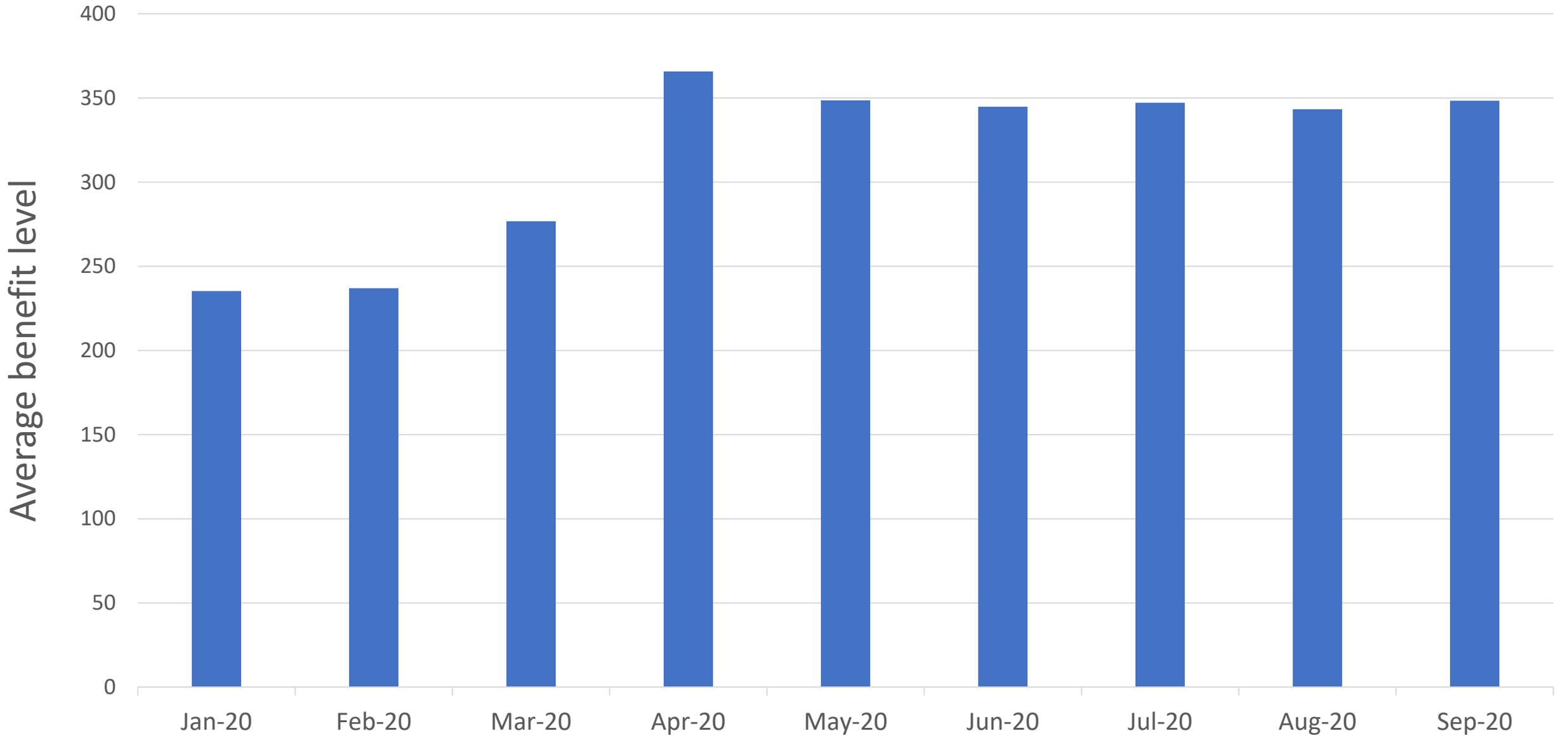


Number of people enrolled in SNAP: Jan. 2020 - Sep. 2020



[Source: FNS, SNAP FY16 through FY20 National View Summary](#)

Average per monthly household benefits: Jan. 2020 - Sep. 2020



[Source: FNS, SNAP FY16 through FY20 National View Summary](#)

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260)

Enacted Dec. 27, 2020

SNAP

- 15% increase in SNAP benefits through June 2021
- Provided \$100 million grants for state SNAP administrative costs
- Excluded pandemic unemployment benefits from income for SNAP eligibility

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260)

- Extended SNAP eligibility to low-income college students
- Provided additional resources for SNAP online purchasing and other technological improvements
- Limited the quality control waivers by 3-months (from September 30, 2021 to June 30, 2021)

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260)

Commodity Assistance Programs

- Provided \$400 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Provided \$13 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- Excluded pandemic unemployment benefits from income for Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) eligibility

National Advocacy Perspective

Robert Campbell

Managing Director, Policy

Feeding America





SOLVING HUNGER
TODAY
ENDING HUNGER
TOMORROW

February 5, 2021
National Association of Counties

Robert Campbell
Managing Director, Policy
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Outline

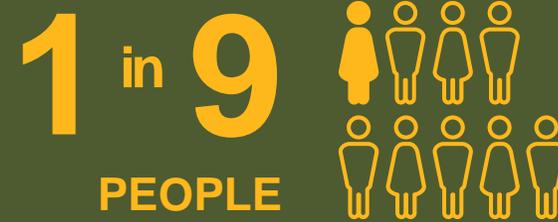
- ❖ **Food Insecurity & Racial Disparities**
- ❖ **Feeding America Overview**
- ❖ **COVID-19 Response**
- ❖ **Policy Priorities for COVID-19 Relief and Economic Recovery**





Hunger Is a Devastating Reality

Hunger was a crisis before the pandemic



The pandemic means grim projections for food insecurity this year – and the foreseeable future



People of Color Are More Likely to Face Hunger

FOOD INSECURITY AFFECTS

1 in 13

White households

1 in 6

Latino households

1 in 5

Black households

1 in 4

Native American households

COVID-19 ALSO HAS A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON THESE SAME POPULATIONS

Higher rates of:



Unemployment



Hospitalization



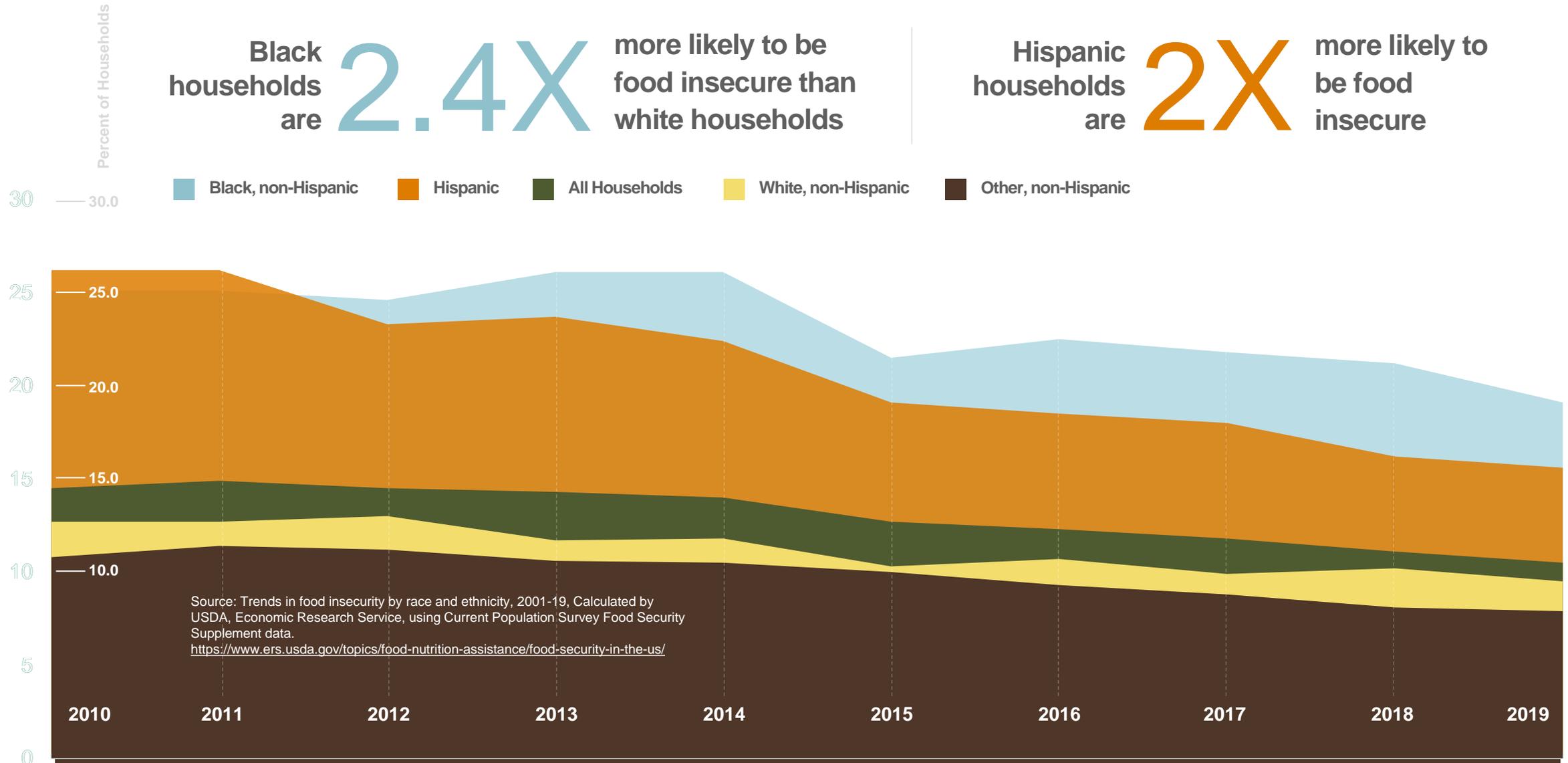
Mortality

People of Color Are More Likely to Face Hunger

**Pre-COVID

Black households are **2.4X** more likely to be food insecure than white households

Hispanic households are **2X** more likely to be food insecure



Rural Counties Are Hardest Hit



63%

of U.S. counties
are rural

YET



87%

of counties with the
**highest rates of
overall food insecurity**
are rural

AND



86%

of the counties with the
**highest rates of
child food insecurity**
are rural

**WE CAN
SOLVE THESE
PROBLEMS.
THE NATION'S
WELL-BEING
DEPENDS ON IT.**

**Feeding America's vision is
a hunger-free America.**

Our mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger.



The Feeding America Network



200
food banks

+

60,000
food pantries and meal programs



Surplus
food



Local
food banks



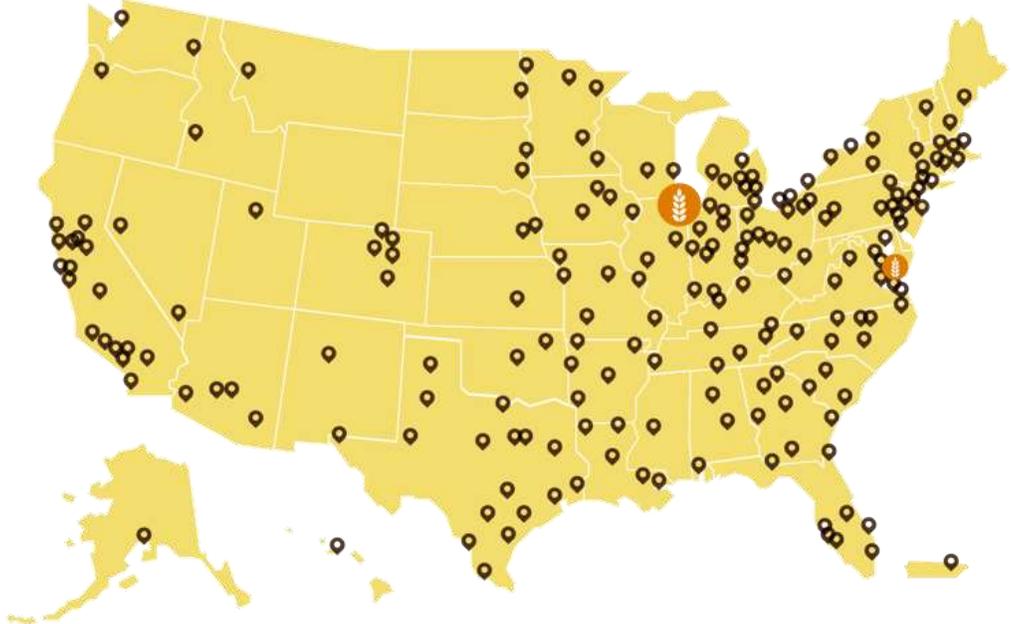
60,000
meal programs



1 in 7 Americans
served

We Are Leading a Coordinated National Response to Hunger, Carried Out in Communities Across the Nation

FEEDING AMERICA



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION LOCATION
 FOOD BANK LOCATION
 PARTNER AGENCY COVERAGE

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

 National vision focused on local needs	 Innovative, visionary leadership	 Leverages national partnerships	 Trusted expert and convener
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FOOD BANK NETWORK

 Reaches every county	60K Pantries and meal programs	 Regional and local authority on hunger relief	 Connects to millions of volunteers
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Transform the Charitable Food Experience Project Spotlight

Workforce Development Partnerships

THE OPPORTUNITY Millions of people live paycheck to paycheck, and when budgets are tight, food is often the first item to be cut. Improving their financial stability is critical to long-term food security.

THE SOLUTION Together with food banks and partners, we are working to help clients with access to workforce development supports that can increase long-term food and financial security.

- Conduct a landscape analysis to understand the workforce development landscape, including gaps and opportunities.
- Launch a pilot to test the feasibility and impact of food bank/workforce development partnerships that pair food distribution and SNAP and other benefits access with high-impact workforce development models.





Catalyze a Movement

Voter Engagement

FEEDING
AMERICA

THE OPPORTUNITY Being able to provide data that the people we serve are registered voters—and willing to vote—will elevate the hunger issue among lawmakers. This nonpartisan work is critical to helping protect federal nutrition programs, as well as building empathy and understanding from congressional offices for the people we serve – all of which help us achieve our outcomes.

THE SOLUTION Empower the people we serve to use their voting power and voices. Conduct voter education to help change the way the public, congressional offices and the community see the people we serve.

- Provide toolkit for all food banks to participate
- Provide grants for select food banks to pilot projects for larger-scale voter education, registration and get out the vote campaigns
- Provide dedicated training to food banks launching more intense voter education, registration and get-out-the-vote programs





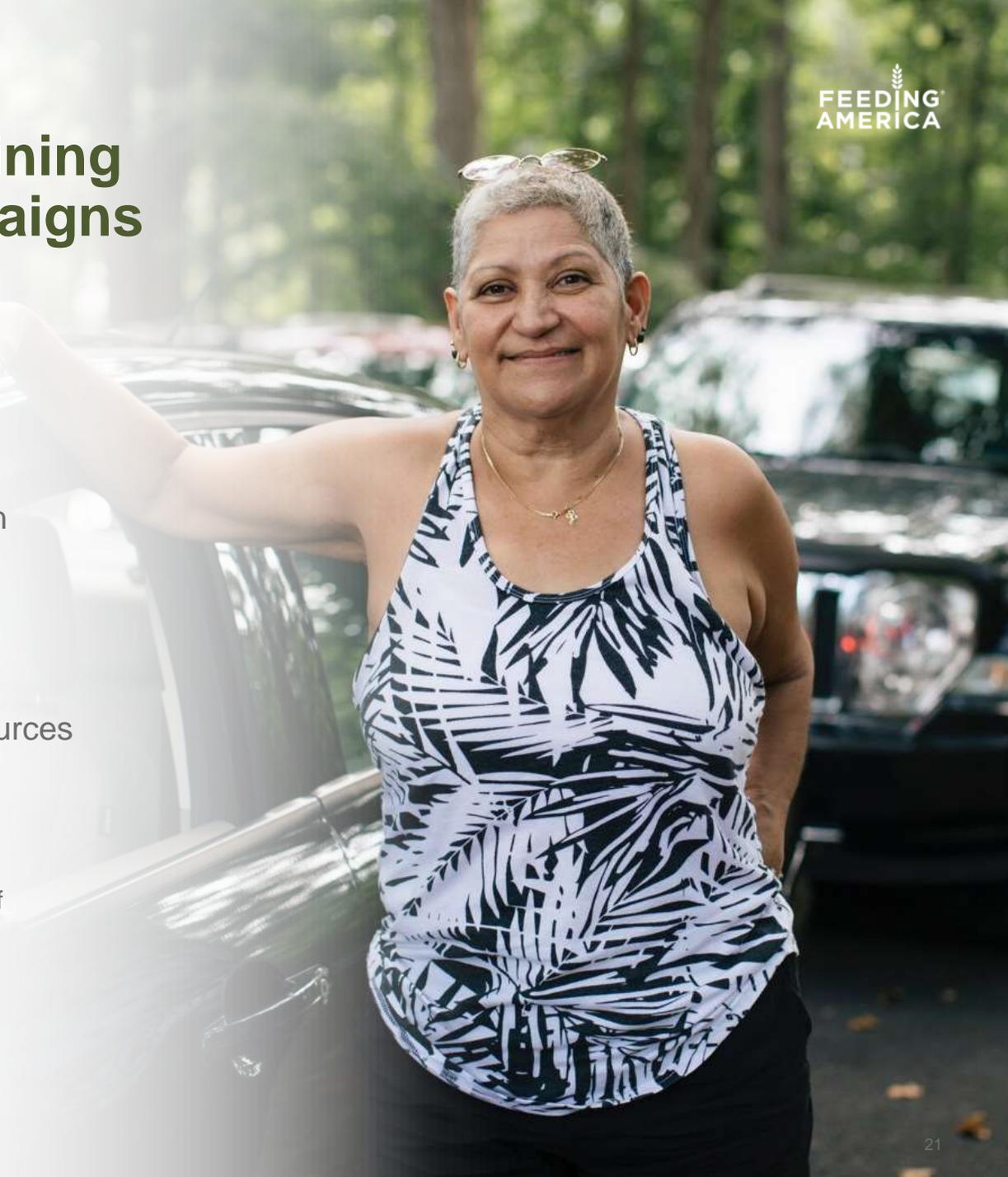
Elevate the Public Sector Role

People We Serve Training And Advocacy Campaigns

THE OPPORTUNITY Effective movements are powered by the people most affected. The people we serve are the most important, authentic and credible voices for lawmakers and the public to learn about hunger in America.

THE SOLUTION Create an advocacy program that empowers the people we serve and helps shift resources to them to organize their communities and lead on issues that affect their lives.

- Co-create (with foods banks and the people we serve) state-level training models and organizing campaigns, with the goal of centering the communities we serve in the organizing, decision-making and execution of the campaigns
- Collect best practices to scale approaches



COVID-19 Response.



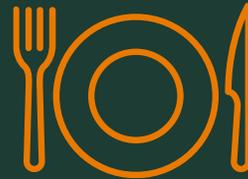
The Feeding America Network's Impact in FY20



Helped
40M
people in
America



Reached
**EVERY
COUNTY**
in the U.S.



Provided
5.2B
meals



Distributed
1.8B
pounds
of fresh
produce



Enabled
232M
meals
through
SNAP
application
assistance

Record Numbers of People Are Seeking Help

For the 35M people already facing hunger, COVID-19 created a crisis within a crisis

- ✓ Lost wages and unemployment
- ✓ Missed school meals
- ✓ Health risks

MILLIONS MORE FACE HUNGER FOR THE FIRST TIME

60%

average increase in the number of clients, reported by food banks

40%

estimated proportion of individuals being served who have never sought help before

“ I am a single mother, and I just lost my job due to the coronavirus. I don't know how I'm going to pay my rent. Thank God for the food pantry. At least I don't have to worry about food. ”

Food Banks Are Responding to Soaring Need Due to COVID-19

Food banks are innovating to meet unprecedented need with new distribution and outreach models.

FROM MARCH - NOVEMBER ALONE:

4.8B

meals provided

60%

average increase in people served throughout the pandemic

\$309M

granted to food banks to support critical needs



Food Banks Are Overcoming Obstacles With Strength and Flexibility

The Pandemic Upended Our Distribution Model Almost Overnight



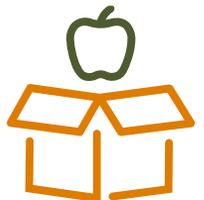
Distributing Directly to Clients

- Conducting contactless drive-thru distributions
- Partnering with USDA to execute emergency feeding programs
- Leveraging new technology for online food orders
- Delivering to vulnerable people (e.g., seniors)
- Creating and revamping child feeding programs



Leveraging Partnerships

- Forging new national and local partners
- 100 food banks partnered with the National Guard to fill volunteer shortages
- Engaging unemployed hospitality workers



Tapping New Supply Sources

- Capturing excess product from restaurants and cafeterias
- Sourcing more boxes, PPE and other essentials for new distribution model



We are leaning into the COVID-19 crisis to look for the ways that it can make us an even stronger ally for the people we serve. We are adopting new systems, implementing new logistics and forming new relationships.

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana, Inc. (Muncie, IN)



POLICY PRIORITIES

COVID-19 Relief & Economic Recovery



Child Nutrition COVID Updates

- **Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)** established in March 2020 to replace the value of meals children no longer receive through school meal programs. September & December 2020 legislation extended and expanded the program to:
 - Continue operating through September 30, 2021
 - Cover young children who are missing meals in childcare centers through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, in addition to school aged children through school meal programs
 - Simplify eligibility and enrollment
 - Allow Puerto Rico and US Territories to implement the program
 - Provide funding to cover state administrative costs
- **Child nutrition program waivers** allowed school based and out-of-school programs to modify service operations to meet local health and safety needs
 - Extends USDA's authority through September 30, 2021 to approve waivers related to child nutrition and WIC program flexibilities previously made available
 - Includes nationwide child nutrition waivers related to the operation of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO), area eligibility, non-congregate feeding, and many other waivers critical to ensuring children are able to access meals

Recent Executive Actions

- **Review of Public Charge:** requires DHS, the Department of State, and DOJ to review the 2019 public charge rules, evaluate the current effects of the rules, and take action to address the policies' affect on our immigration system and public health within 60 days; includes taking steps to reduce the chilling effect on USDA programs.
- **Improvements to Pandemic EBT (P-EBT):** An immediate boost to benefits in the P-EBT program — a program that provides families with money to replace meals that millions of children lost access to at the onset of the pandemic due to school and childcare closures.
- **Review an Increase to SNAP Benefits Allotment:** Last spring the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act provided emergency SNAP food benefits. Unfortunately, the law was interpreted to exclude nearly 40 percent of SNAP households with the lowest incomes who already received the maximum benefit. The Executive Order will review their authority to provide a pathway to allow states to increase SNAP benefits delivered through emergency allotments – outcome and timing of this review and resulting action is unknown.
- **Review the Thrifty Food Plan:** The Executive order will begin the work required by the 2018 Farm Bill of revising the Thrifty Food Plan — the basis for determining SNAP benefits — to better factor in the economic realities that families in need must navigate today when accessing their next meal.

Christy's husband is a disabled vet, and it's challenging for him to find steady work.

When he got laid off, Christy turned to SNAP for help putting food on the table until both she and her husband got new jobs at the same company.

When that company downsized, Christy and her husband lost their jobs on the same day. For the second time, Christy turned to SNAP until she could find work again.

“There was no way for our family to have planned for what happened to us. The benefits of SNAP are immeasurable — because of SNAP I knew I could feed my children.”



COVID Relief Priorities

- Continue an increase in the adequacy and duration of ***SNAP benefits by at least 15 percent*** for the duration of the pandemic and economic recovery.
- Provide an additional \$900 million to ***purchase additional food through TEFAP*** to ensure food banks can provide emergency hunger relief to people in need.
- ***Invest \$543 million in the infrastructure of our nation's charitable food system.***
- ***Increase funding and provide continued flexibility*** to ensure ***child nutrition programs*** like Pandemic EBT can continue serving children in need through the summer and during future school closings.
- Provide direct, financial assistance to those most at risk of food insecurity by ***expanding the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit.***

Administrative Priorities

- **Rescind harmful rules** that limit access to federal nutrition programs.
- **Expand SNAP benefits** by updating interpretation of SNAP emergency allotments made possible through the Family First Coronavirus Response Act to provide to all SNAP households with an increase to their benefits.
- Ensure USDA **effectively implements COVID-19 program flexibilities** granted by Congress.
- Advocate for USDA to use its authority to **support domestic commodities** by making food purchases with Section 32 and Commodity Credit Corporation authority.



Search

Need Help

Sign Up

DONATE

HUNGER
IN AMERICA

OUR
WORK

TAKE
ACTION

FIND A
FOOD BANK

HUNGER
BLOG

Find Your Local Food Bank

The **Feeding America nationwide network of food banks** secures and distributes 4.3 billion meals each year through food pantries and meal programs throughout the United States and leads the nation to engage in the fight against hunger. Contact your local community food bank to find food or click here to **read about public assistance programs**.

Search by
Zip Code or State

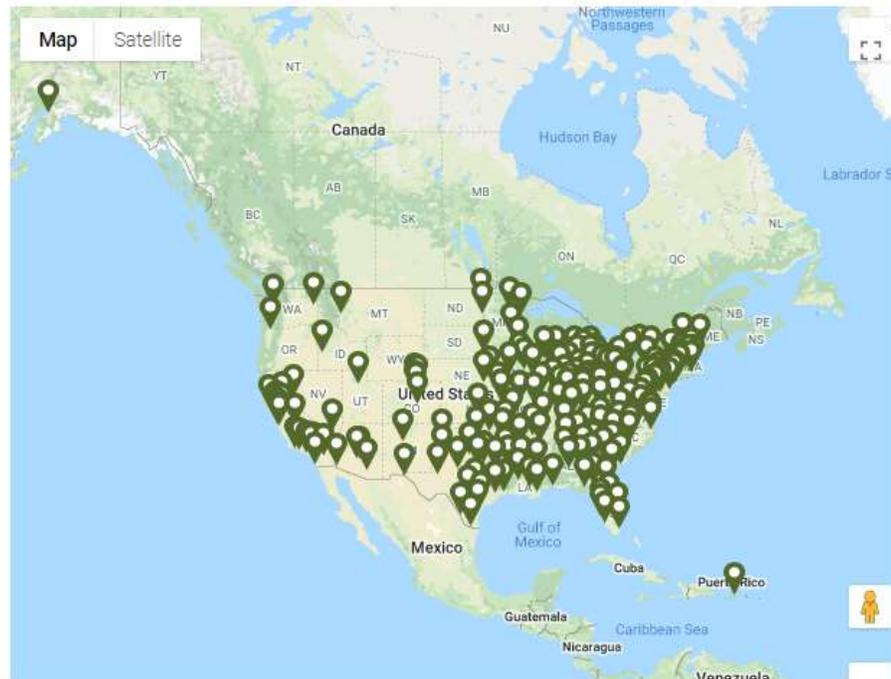
Zip Code

or

State

GO

[View Feeding America's full Member Food Bank Network](#)



www.FeedingAmericaAction.org
Twitter → @hunger

FEEDING AMERICA

Home | County Dashboard | Congressional District Dashboard | State Dashboard

Last updated: October 30, 2020

The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity

In 2020, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic threatens the lives and livelihoods of people throughout the world. Before the COVID-19 crisis began, food insecurity in the U.S. was the lowest it had been in more than 20 years, and yet **35.2 million people, including 10.7 million children, were food insecure.**

The current crisis is likely to reverse the improvements that have occurred over the past decade as millions of people are newly experiencing food insecurity, alongside those who were experiencing food insecurity before the COVID-19 crisis began. Nationally, **more than 60 million people, including 17 million children, may experience food insecurity in 2020 because of COVID-19.**

To explore how food insecurity varies across the country and may increase because of COVID-19, select from the drop-down menu below and hover over the map.

To access the reports associated with these findings, go to <http://www.feedingamerica.org/research/human-research>. For questions or information about methodology, contact research@feedingamerica.org

Select Date: 2020 Projected Overall Food Insecurity Rate | Select State: [dropdown]

2020 Projected Overall Food Insecurity Rate

<https://www.feedingamericaaction.org/the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>

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Legislation

We all can play a role in ensuring no one goes hungry during the coronavirus crisis — including our lawmakers, from governors to members of Congress.

Feeding America COVID-19 Policy Priorities

- Feeding America's Immediate Policy Priorities to Address the Current Food Insecurity Crisis
- Feeding America COVID-19 Priorities

- 1 Strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by extending the benefit boost for all recipients to increase benefits by at least 15 percent for the duration of the economic downturn to provide critical food assistance and to help promote economic stimulus.
- 2 Increase funding for food purchases to support food banks, specifically through an additional \$900 million for food purchases through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) until September 30, 2022. Congress should also ensure any additional funding to help support USDA food purchases of commodities impacted by COVID-19 supply chain disruptions are distributed through USDA food distribution programs.
- 3 Extend and expand school meal programs to ensure all children have access to nutritious meals during the school year and summer months.
- 4 Invest in the infrastructure and transportation capacity of the nation's charitable food system.

<https://www.feedingamericaaction.org/learn/legislation/>

THE PANDEMIC COMPELS US TO SEE HUNGER IN A NEW LIGHT.

We faced new challenges, responded quickly and continue to innovate to meet the ongoing need.

We cannot accept a reality where millions of people don't know where they will get their next meals.

Join us on this journey.

Robert Campbell :: rcampbell@feedingamerica.org

County Efforts

Anthony Trotman

*Deputy County Manager
Mecklenburg County, NC*



Mecklenburg County

Anthony Trotman, Deputy County Manager

Overview

- County Population of 1.1 million
- 250,000 People Receiving Public Benefits
- 15-20% Food Insecurity Rate

Consolidated Health and Human Services Agency

- Community Resources

Food and Nutrition Services and Food Referrals in High Priority Area of Community

- Community Support Services

Meals for People Experiencing Homelessness

- Public Health

WIC, Farmer's Market Partnerships, and Healthy Corner Store Certifications

- Social Services

FNS Benefits and Senior Citizens Nutrition Program

CARES Act Funding

- \$39.2 Million in Total Funding
- \$1.3 Million Invested to Address Food Insecurity

Federal Policy Flexibility

- FNS

Telephonic Signatures, Automatic Benefit Extensions, Benefit Increases, Online Purchases, Waiving Interview Requirements

- WIC

Virtual Enrollment, Waiving Physical Presence, Bloodwork, Height, and Weight Measurements

Advocacy

- Ongoing Policy Flexibilities and Waivers
- Additional Emergency Covid-19 Legislation



Q&A

Submit questions via the “chat” function or email questions@naco.org

Additional Resources

- **NACo Policy Brief:** [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) Reauthorization and Appropriations](#)
- **NACo Analysis:** [American Rescue Plan](#)
- **NACo Analysis:** [Year End COVID-19 Relief and Omnibus Spending Package](#)
- **NACo Blog:** [USDA releases new guidance following President Biden's executive order on expanding federal nutrition benefits](#)