



Formerly named
America's Second Harvest

ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER: ONE PAGE SUMMARY

Feeding America is the nation's largest network of non-profit feeding organizations. Operating in all 50 states, the 205 Feeding America member food banks serve over 63,000 local community feeding agencies. These agencies feed more than 25 million low-income Americans each year, 9 million of whom are children.

The National School Lunch Program reaches more than 31 million children each year, more than 18 million of them from lower income families. Yet, as comprehensive as the Child Nutrition Programs are, these programs do not reach or adequately serve all of the children who are at-risk of hunger. Just 10 million children from these low-income families participate in the School Breakfast Program, and only 2 million children participate in the Summer Food Service Program. For many lower-income children, particularly those in the poorest families, the breakfasts and lunches they receive at school are the mainstay of their diets. The *Feeding America* network operates programs to help fill these gaps through afterschool and summer food programs, and in response to a clear need, is now offering "backpacks" of food for poor children to take home on weekends.

Significant new investments in child nutrition programs are needed and the Administration must propose child nutrition legislation that will improve access to, and administration of, these critically important programs.

- **Meal reimbursements** must be adequate to cover food and operational costs and to reflect more current food price inflation.
- **Start-up grants** must be provided to encourage sponsorship of breakfast and summer food programs in schools and areas without these programs.
- **Summer Food Service program** area income eligibility (currently at 50%) must be lowered in order to increase access for more low-income children.
- **Sponsor eligibility rules and criteria** must be simplified to reduce barriers to the operation of the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- **Financial incentives** must be provided to States to conduct outreach and require that they provide data on areas and schools eligible but not participating in summer food programs.
- **The After-school Supper pilot** must be expanded to all states to provide reimbursements for programs serving meals to children afterschool.
- A **Back Pack Pilot Program** should be funded to test the feasibility of expanding the distribution of food for low-income children to take home weekends and school holidays.
- Fresh produce bought by schools under the **School Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program** should be made available to Backpack programs.
- Additional funding must be provided to **food banks and charitable feeding agencies** during the Summer months to help with the increased demand for food by families with children who live in areas without Summer food service programs
- Full funding must be provided for the **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for women, infants and children (WIC)**.

For a more detailed discussion of issues and proposals see **Ending Hunger in America: Transition to a New Administration**. *Feeding America Paper delivered to the Presidential Transition Team, December 16, 2008.*

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