



Formerly named  
America's Second Harvest

*Dec. 19, 2008*

### ***ECONOMIC RECOVERY FOR HUNGRY AMERICANS: ONE PAGE SUMMARY***

*Feeding America* strongly supports the quick enactment of an economic recovery package that includes a significant increase in funding for food and nutrition programs, particularly those programs that are targeted to serving low-income Americans who are disproportionately suffering from the poor economy – the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP (formerly the food stamp program), the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and the Food Bank Infrastructure Grant program.

SNAP benefits move into and quickly stimulate local economies. Moreover, incremental food assistance received through programs like TEFAP and CSFP help free scarce household resources for other uses that generate economic activity, and allow service providers to spend more of their funding on food purchases and other operational necessities.

Most importantly, this additional food aid will help those who are struggling to put food on the table for their families. An economic recovery package that includes the following will help put our nation on the road to economic recovery while also providing relief to the more than 36 million Americans who face the prospect of hunger each day.

- **SNAP** benefits must be increased substantially (by as much as 20%) and additional funding must be provided to help budget-stressed state and local agencies administering this program.
- **TEFAP** food and funding must be increased to restock the depleted food shelves of emergency feeding organizations and help with state and local costs of handling and distributing the additional commodities. [An annual increase of \$100 million for food purchases and \$50 million for state and local distribution grants.]
- **Food Bank Infrastructure Grants** must be funded to help charitable feeding agencies, particularly those serving hungry people in sparsely populated and remote areas. [\$15 million per year was authorized in Farm bill, but not funded in the CR.]
- **The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** must continue and be expanded to reach the many needy seniors whose nutrition and health needs require dietary supplements [An annual increase of \$30 million.]
- **The WIC program** must be fully funded to ensure healthy diets for lower income mothers and children.

Finally, we urge the new Administration to propose a FY2010 budget that acknowledges the critical importance of our federal food and nutrition programs to the longer-term economic growth of the nation.

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For a more detailed discussion of these issues and other 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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