A NATIONAL CRISIS AND A COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE

Nutrition assistance helps at-risk seniors and their families stretch their budgets to ease the burden of choosing between buying food and paying for other necessities, such as medicine, rent and utilities. Every day, communities nationwide are leveraging government supports, volunteers and charitable giving to reach older Americans who struggle with these challenges.

COLLABORATIONS HELP SENIORS THROUGHOUT THE CONTINUUM OF NEED

Protecting seniors from food insecurity and hunger is complex due to their varying abilities to purchase and prepare food. That is why food banks and Meals on Wheels organizations are working in tandem to ensure that seniors continue to have access to assistance as they age. The chart below shows the safety net programs available that provide access to proper nutrition and promote health and independence across various stages of aging.

IN 2014, 5.7 MILLION ADULTS 60+ WERE FOOD INSECURE, WITH 4.5 MILLION MORE FACING THE THREAT OF HUNGER

Studies show that food-insecure seniors are at increased risk of poorer health and chronic conditions, including diabetes and heart disease. With the senior population projected to double by 2050, it is more critical than ever that we invest in our nation’s nutrition assistance programs to strengthen their safety net.

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS AT WORK

East Texas Food Bank in Tyler, TX operates a program called “Senior Servings” in partnership with local Meals on Wheels programs. The Food Bank provides two additional weekend bags for Meals on Wheels drivers to deliver to their clients’ homes on Fridays, extending their standard five-day coverage to seven.

Olive Branch Senior Center in Phoenix, AZ distributes fresh fruits and vegetables to congregate meals clients and other program participants, made possible through donations from the St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance.
# POLICY SOLUTIONS THAT CAN STRENGTHEN FEDERAL SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Ensure SNAP benefits are adequate.
- Strengthen SNAP policies for seniors to close the Senior SNAP GAP and ensure access for all eligible food-insecure seniors, such as simplified applications and standard medical deductions.

## Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- Provide enough funding for CSFP to maintain current caseloads and expand the program nationwide. Currently, CSFP operates in only 47 states, plus the District of Columbia and two Indian reservations.
- Protect and strengthen the Older Americans Act that supports the delivery of social and preventative services to some of our nations most isolated and vulnerable Americans, including nutritious meals for 2.4 million seniors.
- Fund Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs at a level that is adequate to meet both the growing need and the increased cost of service and protect them from harsh and unnecessary sequestration cuts.

## Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals
- Provide enough funding for CSFP to maintain current caseloads and expand the program nationwide. Currently, CSFP operates in only 47 states, plus the District of Columbia and two Indian reservations.
- Protect and strengthen the Older Americans Act that supports the delivery of social and preventative services to some of our nations most isolated and vulnerable Americans, including nutritious meals for 2.4 million seniors.
- Fund Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs at a level that is adequate to meet both the growing need and the increased cost of service and protect them from harsh and unnecessary sequestration cuts.