



MEDIA RELEASE

Media release for Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. For immediate release.

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Arkansas Tops National List For Senior Hunger AGAIN!

LITTLE ROCK, AR (2016) –According to [The State of Senior Hunger in America 2014](#) report out today from the [National Foundation to End Senior Hunger](#), Arkansas once again tops the list of the states with the highest rate of senior food insecurity at 24.85 percent (9.05 percent above the national average), followed by Mississippi and Louisiana with 24.3 percent and 23.72 percent, respectively..

Among the reports findings:

- Fully 15.8% of seniors face the threat of hunger nation wide. This translates into 10.2 million seniors.
- For the first time, there is now over 10 million seniors facing the threat of hunger
- Those living in states in the South and Southwest, those who are racial or ethnic minorities, those with lower incomes, and those who are younger (ages 60-69) are most likely to be threatened by hunger.
- Out of those seniors who face the threat of hunger, the majority have incomes above the poverty line and are white.
- From 2001 to 2014, the fraction of seniors experiencing the threat of hunger increased by 47%. The number of seniors facing the threat of hunger has risen by 119% since 2001, which also reflects the growing population of seniors.
- Since the onset of the recession in 2007 until 2014, the number of seniors experiencing the threat of hunger has increased by 65%.
- From 2013-2014 there was a dramatic increase— from 32.6% to 40.3%—in the threat of hunger among senior households with grandchildren

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance's SNAP Outreach Team makes a special effort to assist seniors who are eligible for food assistance benefits to apply. Often eligible seniors do not know they can receive benefits or believe they will be taking food from those who are worse off than they, opting instead to cut back on medication in order to buy food. In in 2015, 398 or 24% of the applications submitted through the Alliance's outreach efforts were for individuals aged 60 and over. This year we have taken a total of 868 applications thus far, and 246 or 28% of the applications were for people 60+.

Arkansas seniors deserve better than they are getting. The Alliance, along with hunger relief and senior advocates across the nation are working to impress upon Congress the need for increasing the food

assistance benefit for seniors and relaxing the eligibility requirements so our seniors can afford the nutritious food they need to stay as healthy as possible. Hunger is especially dangerous in a senior population, increasing their susceptibility to disease and agravating chronic conditions such as heart disease and depression.

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About The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, lead partner in Arkansas for the No Kid Hungry campaign, is a non-profit collaborative network of more than 480 hunger relief organizations across Arkansas. Our founding members include the Arkansas Foodbank in Little Rock, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro, Harvest Regional Food Bank in Texarkana, Food Bank of North Central Arkansas in Norfolk, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in Bethel Heights and River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith. The Alliance is dedicated to reducing hunger through direct relief, education and advocacy. We invite you to visit www.ARhungeralliance.org for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.