



# MEDIA RELEASE

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

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## **ALLIANCE SUPPORTS HEALTHY ACTIVE ARKANSAS 10-YEAR PLAN**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR (October 16, 2015)** - Governor Asa Hutchinson released his administration's 10-year plan to fight obesity and make Arkansas a healthier place for children and families. The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign support the Governor's plan for adopting many of the organization's child nutrition programs and increasing awareness of the need for greater access to healthy food for all Arkansans.

"We are very pleased that Governor Hutchinson and Surgeon General Dr. Greg Bledsoe's plan includes a commitment to increasing the number of schools providing alternate breakfast delivery service in Arkansas schools," said Alliance Executive Director Kathy Webb. The Alliance, as lead partner for the [Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign](#), partners with the Arkansas Department of Education to help schools adopt [breakfast-after-the-bell](#) programs such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab & Go and Second Chance Breakfast. "We are seeing promising results in the more than 400 schools we have helped bring into the breakfast-after-the-bell program. Students have fewer health problems, miss fewer days of school and have fewer discipline problems when they start the day with a nutritious breakfast," Webb said.

"The plan's recommendation to utilize evidence-based nutrition education programs as a means to reduce obesity and improve the health of all Arkansans is especially gratifying," said Webb. [Cooking Matters](#), [Cooking Matters at the Store](#) and SNAP education programs empower low income Arkansans to make better food choices by giving them the skills they need to buy and prepare nutritious food on very meager budgets. "Our evidence-based programs change lives, and we're happy to be a partner in the Healthy Active Arkansas 10-year plan."

The [Healthy Active Arkansas plan](#) emphasizes the need to expand public policy to assure inclusion of healthy food for all Arkansans through increasing the state food purchase program to include fresh fruits and vegetables. The plan also recommends increased local grower participation in gleaning. Access to healthy food is another area in which the Alliance has long been active through administration of the state food-purchasing program and the Arkansas Gleaning Project. "Although we will exceed 1 million pounds of gleaned produce in 2015," Webb said, "we look forward to welcoming more local growers into the Arkansas Gleaning Project and receiving additional funding from the state to include fresh produce in our state food purchase program. It will mean low income Arkansans will have greater access than ever before to fresh fruit and vegetables through local food banks and pantries."

The Alliance, our six Feeding America food bank members and the Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign look forward to helping make Healthy Active Arkansas a reality by increasing access to healthy food, reducing obesity through evidence-based nutrition programs and making sure all of our kids start the day ready to learn with a healthy school breakfast.

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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 Texarkana 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](http://www.ARhungeralliance.org) for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.

**Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign**

The Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign was launched in 2010 as a partnership between the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, the state of Arkansas and Share Our Strength to end childhood hunger in Arkansas. The campaign connects kids in need to effective nutrition programs like school breakfast, summer and afterschool meals, as well as teaches low-income families to cook healthy, affordable meals through its Cooking Matters program.