



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## FOOD HARDSHIP DECLINES IN ARKANSAS

**LITTLE ROCK, AR (August 20, 2015 )**—The Gallup organization, which has conducted the Gallup Healthways Well-Being Index survey for past seven years, has released its results for the first half of 2015. The survey’s hunger assessment is based on a single question: "Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?"

Nationally, 15.8 percent of survey respondents in the first half of 2015 answered “yes.” This is a drop from the 17.1 percent who replied "yes" in 2014. The report shows that Arkansas’s food hardship rate has declined 3.2 percent from the 2014 figure of 21 percent. The impact of the economic recovery plus the increased share of households in need that are receiving SNAP (food stamps) along with increased participation in USDA child nutrition programs are showing positive results.

“While we are very happy to see that the great work our Feeding America Food Banks, SNAP Outreach and Arkansas No Kid Hungry teams are doing in connecting Arkansans with the food resources they need, there are still far too many children, seniors and families who don’t always know where they will get their next meal,” said Kathy Webb, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance executive director. “Poverty and the lack of access to nutritious food remains a challenge in Arkansas,” Webb continued. “We’re committed to continuing our outreach, nutrition education and advocacy work on behalf of low-income Arkansans.”

According to the Food Research & Action Center that provided an analysis of the report, “there are many key factors at play that are resulting in fewer Americans struggling to put food on the table. As the economy continues to improve, unemployment numbers continue to fall. Meanwhile, federal nutrition programs buoy this positive trajectory. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), for instance, is helping to meet the nutritional needs of people who are out-of-work as well as those who are transitioning to employment and/or to jobs with better wages. Since the recession hit, the growth in the rate of SNAP participation, even as the number of eligible people grew, kept hunger in America from getting even worse.”

The state-by-state [results](#) show Mississippi, Oklahoma, Alabama and Louisiana with the highest rates of food hardship in the nation.

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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.

**About FRAC**

The Food Research and Action Center ([www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)) is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition. Visit our Web site ([www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)) to learn more. Click [here](#) to unsubscribe from this e-mail.