

ADDRESSING HUNGER AND NUTRITION

A Tool Kit for Positive Results

National
Conference
of
State
Legislatures

Glossary of Hunger and Nutrition Terms

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À La Carte – In schools, à la carte refers to food and beverages sold to students in the cafeteria in addition to the meals and snacks served through the federally-reimbursed **child nutrition programs**.

ABAWDs – (Pronounced *a-bods*). Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents. This term is applied to jobless individuals aged 18 to 50 without dependents. ABAWDs are limited to 3 months of food stamp benefits in a 36-month period unless either of the following two exemptions apply. Individuals are exempt if he or she is: (1) employed or participating in an approved work or training program at least half time; or (2) participating in federal workforce programs for the required number of hours. States can apply for a waiver to this rule for areas that: (1) have an unemployment rate which exceeds 10 percent; or (2) do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

Area-eligibility – A process within the **child nutrition programs** that allows all program participants in a low-income area to be eligible for free meals (for children in schools and child care settings) or the highest reimbursement level (for child care providers in the **CACFP**). Area eligibility is based on the percentage of children in families with income at or below 185 percent of the **Federal Poverty Level** in an area. Census data or school data showing the percentage of children qualifying for free or reduced price lunch at the neighborhood elementary school is used to determine area eligibility.

BMI - Body Mass Index. A number that shows body weight adjusted for height that can be calculated with simple math using inches and pounds. For adults, BMI falls into one of these categories: underweight, normal, overweight and obese. For children and teens, BMI is used to assess underweight, risk for overweight and obesity. In addition, BMI for children and teens takes into account age and gender.

Categorical Eligibility – Refers to an individual's eligibility for one program based upon his or her eligibility and participation in another program. Households participating in cash assistance programs of the **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF)** or receiving **SSI** or **General Assistance** are categorically eligible to participate in

the **Food Stamp Program**, but still must have net income at or below the **federal poverty level** and complete the Food Stamp Program application process in order to receive food stamp benefits. States may also treat as categorically eligible for food stamps families receiving certain TANF-funded services even if the households do not receive TANF cash assistance. Categorical eligibility in the **child nutrition programs** varies by program. In general, homeless, runaway, and migrant youth and children from households participating in the Food Stamp Program, the **Food Distribution Program in Indian Reservations (FDPIR)**, or TANF are categorically eligible to receive free meals.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) – This **USDA** program provides subsidized meals to children and adults cared for by participating child care centers, family child care homes, and adult day care centers.

Child Nutrition Act – The Child Nutrition Act and the **National School Lunch Act** are the two pieces of authorizing legislation for the **child nutrition** and **WIC** programs. These laws were most recently reauthorized through 2009 by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, P.L. 108-265.

Child Nutrition Programs – The five **USDA** domestic food assistance programs that primarily serve the nutritional needs of children. These programs include: the **National School Lunch Program**, **School Breakfast Program**, **Summer Food Service Program**, **Child and Adult Care Food Program**, and the **Special Milk Program**.

Commodity Foods – As a result of federal surplus-removal and price-support programs, the **USDA** purchases excess food produced by American farmers. The USDA utilizes a number of commodity distribution and nutrition programs to provide these excess commodities to low-income Americans.

Community Food and Nutrition Program (CFNP) – A federal grant program administered by **HHS** that funds activities such as coordinating private and public food assistance resources to better serve low-income populations; assisting low-income communities in identifying potential sponsors of child

nutrition programs and developing innovative state and local approaches to meet the nutrition needs of low-income people.

Community Food Projects Grants Program – A grants program administered by **CSREES** to help communities become more self-reliant at maintaining their food systems while addressing food, nutrition, and farm issues. Grants are awarded on a one-time basis to eligible private nonprofit entities. Community Food Projects grants have been used to establish **Farm to School** programs.

Community Food Security – A comprehensive strategy to ensure a community's **food system** is able to meet and enhance the economic, environmental, and social well-being of a particular place (neighborhood, city, county, state or region). Hunger and nutrition needs are included in establishing a community food security strategy.

Community Food System – The agricultural production, food distribution, and consumption needs of a particular place with an emphasis on consumption of seasonal, locally grown and produced foods. See also **Food System**.

Community Garden – A garden developed and maintained by members of a community. Community gardens are often established to serve as a catalyst for neighborhood development, beautification, recreation, therapy, and food production. In low-income communities, community gardens can provide fresh produce and serve as a source for youth programming.

Community Kitchen – A community organization that prepares meals for low-income clients. In some cases, meals prepared by a community kitchen are eaten onsite. These specific types of organizations are also known as **Emergency Kitchens** or **Soup Kitchens**. Community kitchen can also refer to an organization that rescues prepared and perishable surplus food from the retail and foodservice industries and then redistributes the food to non-profit community service agencies such as homeless shelters, afterschool programs, and senior centers. This second type of community kitchen often operates a job-training program to help low-income individuals obtain the skill necessary to find and maintain employment in the food service industry.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) – A type of farm where growers and consumers share the risks and benefits of food production. Typically CSA farm members or “shareholders” pledge in advance to cover the anticipated costs of the farm operation and farmer’s salary. In return, the shareholders receive shares in the farm’s production throughout the growing season. Shareholders also share in the risks of farming, including poor harvests due to unfavorable weather or pests. By direct sales to community members, who have provided the farmer with working capital in advance, growers

receive better prices for their crops, gain some financial security, and are relieved of much of the burden of marketing. CSAs are increasingly used as a way to provide low-income, urban neighborhoods with access to fresh produce. More information can be found at the **USDA**’s Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa/>).

Competitive Foods – In schools, competitive foods refers to food and beverages available other than those served through the federally-reimbursed **child nutrition programs**, including food and beverages available through **à la carte lines**, vending machines, snack bars, student stores and through fundraisers.

Congregate Meal Program – A program which serves meals at a community location, such as a senior center, where seniors can come and eat in the company of others. Congregate meal programs are often supported by the **Elderly Nutrition Program**. Some states also use funds from the **Social Services Block Grant** to support congregate meal programs.

CSREES – Cooperative, State, Research, Education, and Extension Service. The agency within the **USDA** that supports research, education and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System. Related to hunger and nutrition, CSREES administers the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program**.

CSFP – Commodity Supplemental Food Program. CSFP is a **USDA** program that makes commodity foods available to low-income pregnant women, new mothers, infants, children up to age six, and the elderly. The **USDA** makes the commodities available to state agencies, which then distribute them to public and non-profit local agencies that serve these populations. This program does not operate in all states.

Department of Defense – Fresh Program – A pilot program begun in 1994 and operated by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) that allows school food service directors to use federal commodity dollars to purchase state-grown produce from DoD. DoD purchases the products from small and mid-size family farmers. The DoD Fresh Program is operational in New Mexico, Kentucky, North Carolina, Michigan, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia and New Jersey. Illinois and New York are in the process of developing a program.

Dietary Guidelines for Americans – Issued jointly every five years by **HHS** and the **USDA**, the Dietary Guidelines provide recommendations for dietary habits to promote health and reduce the risk of chronic disease. Meals served under many of the federal nutrition programs, such as the Child Nutrition Programs, must meet the requirements outlined in the Guidelines. The current Dietary Guidelines can be viewed here: <http://www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines/>.

Direct-certification – A process by which **categorically eligible** children are automatically certified to receive free meals and snacks through the **child nutrition programs**. With direct certification families do not have to submit an application to the child nutrition programs. Rather, the state agency responsible for child nutrition programs coordinates with other state administering agencies to obtain the names of children whose families participate in designated programs such as **Food Stamps**, **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)**, **TANF**, and Medicaid. The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 mandated phased-in direct certification between the school meals programs and the Food Stamp Program. Direct certification via FDPIR, TANF, and Medicaid is optional.

EBT – Electronic Benefits Transfer. EBT is the method by which food stamp and other benefits are distributed via an electronic debit card. Some states also use EBT to distribute benefits under **WIC** and some other programs.

EITC – Earned Income Tax Credit. EITC is a tax benefit for low- to moderate-income working families. Workers who qualify for the EITC and file a federal income tax return can receive a refund, making this an important program to support low-income families. Partnering with EITC outreach campaigns is one way of conducting **multi-benefit outreach** for food and nutrition programs.

Elderly Nutrition Program – Administered through the Administration on Aging at **HHS**, this program provides grants and meal subsidies to state agencies to support meals for the elderly in group settings and meals delivered to participants' homes. The program does not include means testing, but it targets its services to elderly with the greatest economic or social need. In addition to providing meals, the program also has a goal of increasing socialization of its participants. At the state level, this program is administered through the State Agency on Aging or Indian Tribal Organizations.

Emergency Food Providers – Private, nonprofit organizations that provide food to individuals and households in need. Emergency food providers obtain most food through bulk purchasing and donations; however, the federal **TEFAP** program also makes excess commodities available to the emergency food network.

Emergency Kitchen – see **Soup Kitchen** and **Community Kitchen**

ERS – Economic Research Service. The research division within the **USDA** that conducts research on programs and issues under the USDA's jurisdiction. Related to hunger, ERS conducts research and analysis on food security levels and various aspects of administration and implementation of

federal nutrition and commodity distribution programs. See also **OANE**.

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) – This nutrition education program, administered through **CSREES** at the **USDA**, provides low-income individuals with the knowledge and skills to improve their nutritional well-being on a limited budget.

Farm Bill – Authority for the **Food Stamp Program** is contained within the Farm Bill. This legislation can also affect commodity distribution programs such as **TEFAP** and **CSFP** and the **child nutrition programs** that receive commodity foods. In addition to nutrition programs, authority for many other **USDA** programs and activities is contained within the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill was most recently reauthorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, P.L. 107-171.

Farm to Cafeteria – Part of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Farm to Cafeteria projects link local farmers and schools to bring locally-grown food into the **National School Lunch Program**. Examples of Farm to Cafeteria projects include salad bars, seasonal items incorporated into lunch menus, and school gardens. Although currently no funds have been appropriated for the implementation of this program, schools in 17 states have started their own programs, sometimes referred to as **Farm to School** programs, with funding from community organizations and the **USDA Community Food Projects Grants**.

Farm to School – see **Farm to Cafeteria**

Farmers Market – A market where consumers can purchase fresh produce and other food items (such as meat, dairy products, and baked goods) directly from small to medium-sized farmers. Farmers markets are often located in urban settings, providing an important link between rural and urban communities. Some farmers markets also have the ability to accept **EBT**, allowing consumers to use their food stamp benefits to purchase food at these locations.

Federal Poverty Level (FPL) – A measure used to determine the household income level for a family to be considered in poverty. The measurement was developed in 1965 by multiplying the USDA's economy food plan (predecessor to the **Thrifty Food Plan**) by three. The measurement is updated each year based on price increases reflected in the Consumer Price Index. Also referred to as the **poverty level**.

FMNV – Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value. FMNV is defined as: (i) In the case of artificially sweetened foods, a food which provides less than five percent of the Reference Daily Intakes (RDI) for each of eight specified nutrients per serving;

and (ii) in the case of all other foods, a food which provides less than five percent of the RDI for each of eight specified nutrients per 100 calories and less than five percent of the RDI for each of the eight specified nutrients per serving. The eight nutrients to be assessed for this purpose are – protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, niacin, riboflavin, thiamine, calcium and iron. The *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* Section 210.11 defines FMNV; Appendix B states foods of minimal nutritional value include: soda water, water ices, chewing gum and certain candies.

FNS – Food and Nutrition Service. The agency within the **USDA** that has jurisdiction over federal nutrition and commodity distribution programs.

Food Bank – A private, nonprofit organization that collects mostly nonperishable food in bulk from private and government sources. The food bank then distributes the food to food pantries and emergency kitchens which serve individuals and households in need.

Food Bank Network – An organization of food banks that coordinates the transfer of donated food and grocery products to where they are needed most. Often a food bank network will coordinate transfer of food to areas of need on a nationwide basis.

Food Collection – see **Food Drive**.

FDPIR – Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. This **USDA** program provides commodity foods to low-income households, including the elderly, living on Indian reservations, and to Native American families residing in designated areas near reservations.

Food Drive – The collection of non-perishable foods with longer shelf lives (canned foods, etc.) Also referred to as a **Food Collection**.

Food Insecurity – Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. That is, without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies. (As defined by the **USDA's ERS**.) For more information, see: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity/measurement/>.

Food Pantry – An agency that provides food directly to needy households by distributing bags of grocery items to be prepared and eaten at home. Also known as a **Food Shelf**.

Food Policy Council – A group, usually established by a legislative or executive directive, comprised of representatives from diverse food-related sectors that aims to provide advice, recommendations, and information regarding a community's

food system. Food Policy Councils exist at the state, county, and local level. The exact powers and responsibilities of Food Policy Councils vary, however many are able to recommend policy or program changes. Many Food Policy Councils focus on ensuring **community food security**.

Food Rescue – The collection of perishable foods from wholesale and retail sources and the food industry. For example, collecting excess produce from supermarkets or prepared foods from hotels, caterers and restaurants.

Food Security – Access by all people, at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food Security includes at a minimum: (1) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods and (2) an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. That is, without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies. (As defined by the **USDA's ERS**.) For more information, see: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity/measurement>.

Food Shelf – see **Food Pantry**.

Food Stamp Administration – Administration of the **Food Stamp Program** is shared by the federal and state governments. The **USDA** monitors state administration of the program, and provides bonus awards to states with the lowest and most improved **payment error rates**, lowest and most improved **negative error rates**, highest and most improved participation indices, and highest rates of timeliness in case handling.

Food Stamp Employment and Training Program – Federal funds made available to the states through the **Food Stamp Program** for the purpose of providing employment and training programs to food stamp households that would otherwise be ineligible for food stamp benefits. See also **ABADWs**.

Food Stamp Household – A person or a group of people living together, but not necessarily related, who purchase and prepare food together.

Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) – This program, administered through **FNS** at the **USDA**, aims to improve the diet and nutrition-related skills of food stamp recipients and their families.

Food Stamp Program – The largest nutrition program for low-income Americans that provides an allotted monthly benefit on electronic debit cards. Benefits can be redeemed at many grocery stores, some farmers markets and other retail sites, allowing low-income individuals to obtain food through normal channels of trade. The Food Stamp Program is an entitlement for low-income people run by the **USDA**. Benefits are 100 percent federally funded. Administrative

costs are shared between the federal and state governments. Food stamp benefits can only be used for food, and cannot be used to buy: any nonfood item (such as pet food, household supplies, grooming items, etc.); alcoholic beverages and tobacco; vitamins and medicines; any food that will be eaten in the store; and hot foods.

Food System – Refers to the agricultural production, food distribution, and consumption needs of a particular place (neighborhood, city, county, state or region). See also **Community Food System**.

Free Meal Certification – A classification within the **child nutrition programs** indicating that a child is able to receive meals and snacks at no cost to his or her family. Children from families with income at or below 130 percent of the **federal poverty level** qualify to receive free meals. In the 2005 – 2006 school year, a family of four with an annual income below \$25,155 would qualify to receive free meals. Children can also be certified to receive free meals through **categorical eligibility**.

General Assistance – Refers to a collective group of assistance programs funded and administered entirely by the state, county, and/or locality in which the particular program operates and that provide benefits to low-income persons who are not eligible for federal assistance. General Assistance programs are the last resort for government assistance for many in need.

Gleaning – The collection of crops from farmers' fields that have already been mechanically harvested or on fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest.

HHS – United States Department of Health and Human Services. The federal agency responsible for administration for health and social service programs at the federal level. HHS also administers the **Elderly Nutrition Program** and the **Nutrition Services Incentive Program**.

Home-Delivered Meals – A program in which volunteers deliver meals to homebound seniors. Home-delivered meals programs are often supported by the **Elderly Nutrition Program**. Some states also use funds from the **Social Services Block Grant** to support home-delivered meals programs. These programs are more commonly known as **Meals on Wheels**.

Hunger – The uneasy or painful sensation caused by lack of food. The recurrent and involuntary lack of access to food. (As defined by the **USDA's ERS**). For more information, see: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity/measurement>.

Income Eligibility – Individuals and households qualify for the federal nutrition programs by providing information about

the household's income. Based upon the household income, a child may be certified to receive free or reduced-price school meals. In general, in order to be eligible for the **Food Stamp Program**, household income cannot exceed 130 percent of the **federal poverty level**. Children from households with an income below 135 percent of poverty can receive **Free Meal Certification**. Children from households with an income between 135 percent and 180 percent of poverty can receive **Reduced Price Meal Certification**.

Kids Café – A program operated by America's Second Harvest that aims to provide free and prepared food and nutrition education to hungry children. Through the Kids Café program, food banks and food rescue organizations coordinate with community service organizations that serve children. Some Kids Cafes utilize **CACFP** to provide food.

Language Access – The ability of **LEP** individuals to receive the benefits and services of government programs. To comply with recent federal guidance, administrators of food and nutrition programs can make benefit programs accessible by employing bilingual staff, making available interpreter services, and translating and printing applications and notices in a variety of languages. For more information see: www.lep.gov.

LEP – Limited English Proficient. Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English are described as LEP. Executive Order 13166 says that LEP individuals should have meaningful access to federally conducted and federally funded programs and activities.

Lugar Pilot Program – A pilot program that operated in thirteen states to streamline reimbursement and paperwork for the **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**. The program was expanded to nineteen states in the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, and is now known as the **Simplified Summer Food Service Program**.

Meal pattern – Meals served under the **child nutrition programs** must fulfill certain nutrition standards established by the **USDA**. The meal pattern outlines the specific types (fluid milk, dairy, fruit/vegetable, bread/bread alternative, and meat/meat alternative) and serving size of food that fulfill these guidelines. The meal pattern varies based upon type of meal (breakfast, lunch/supper or snack) and age of the child being served. For example, in the **CACFP**, the breakfast meal pattern for children age 6 to 12 is one fluid milk serving, one fruit or vegetable serving, and one bread/bread alternative.

Meals on Wheels – see **Home-Delivered Meals**

Multi-benefit outreach – Outreach initiatives aimed at connecting low-income families to the range of income

support programs and services. Multi-benefit outreach efforts can help low-income families learn about the variety of support programs available while decreasing stigma and simplifying the outreach and enrollment process. Multi-benefit outreach campaigns often provide information about programs such as: **EITC**, food stamps and other nutrition programs, free and low-cost health insurance, child care assistance, and energy assistance.

National School Lunch Act – The National School Lunch Act and the **Child Nutrition Act** are the two pieces of authorizing legislation for the **child nutrition** and **WIC** programs. These laws were most recently reauthorized by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) – This **USDA** program helps public and private schools provide nutritious lunches to all students. Low-income students are able to receive free or reduced-price lunches through the program.

Negative Error Rate – A measurement of the frequency of improper denial or termination of benefits in the **Food Stamp Program**.

Nutrition Services Incentive Program – A program administered through the Administration on Aging at **HHS** that provides states with funding, in the form of cash or commodities, for the effective delivery of nutritious meals to seniors. States must use benefits under this program to provide meals in conjunction with other Administration on Aging-supported programs. At the state level, this program is administered through the State Agency on Aging or Indian Tribal Organizations.

OANE – Office of Analysis, Nutrition, and Evaluation. This research division within **FNS** at the **USDA** conducts program analysis and assessment of the programs under FNS' jurisdiction. The office also serves as a coordinating point for program-related nutrition policy and services. See also **ERS**.

Paid Meal Certification – A classification within the **child nutrition programs** where children pay most of the cost for receiving meals and snacks. Through the five child nutrition programs, the federal government pays some of the administrative costs. Children from families with incomes above 185 percent of poverty pay for meals and snacks.

Payment Error Rate – A measurement of the accuracy in determining the correct amount of benefit for **Food Stamp Program** recipients. States with the lowest and most improved payment error rates are eligible for a bonus from the **USDA**.

Poverty Level – see **Federal Poverty Level**

Poverty Guidelines – Guidelines issued each year by **HHS**

that are used to determine eligibility for the all means-tested programs, including nutrition programs. Poverty guidelines are based upon calculation of the **Federal Poverty Level**.

Prescreening Tool – A computer program that estimates an individual's eligibility for various income support programs, such as Food Stamps. Information about an individual's household and income is entered into the computer program, which then estimates **Food Stamp Program** eligibility and approximate benefit levels. Some prescreening tools are web-based, while others are utilized by outreach workers on laptop computers. The **USDA** has developed a web-based prescreening tool which can be accessed here: <http://209.48.219.49/fns/>.

Public Charge – Immigrants who become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence may be denied adjustment to permanent resident status or may be deported on the grounds they have become a "public charge." Nutrition programs have been specifically excluded from consideration in public charge determinations. This includes Food Stamps, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), school meals programs, and other supplementary and emergency food assistance programs. Confusion about public charge keeps some immigrants from accessing nutrition benefits for which they or other household members are eligible. For additional information, see "Questions and Answers: Public Charge" from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service at: http://uscis.gov/graphics/publicaffairs/questans/public_cqa.pdf.

Qualified Immigrants – Refers to legal immigrants and their eligibility for federal public benefits. Most qualified immigrants entering the United States after August 22, 1996, are barred from receiving federal benefits, including **food stamps**, for five years. Eligibility for food stamps has been restored to immigrant children, disabled, and some elderly immigrants. The term qualified immigrants was created in the 1996 welfare reform legislation, P.L. 104-193, and refers specifically to: lawful permanent residents, refugees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, asylees, aliens paroled into the United States for a period of at least one year, aliens granted withholding of deportation, aliens granted conditional entry into the United States, and certain battered alien spouses and children. For additional information see: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/immig/eligibilitychart04.htm>.

Reduced-price Meal Certification – A classification within the **child nutrition programs** indicating that a child is able to receive reduced cost meals and snacks. Students can not be charged more than \$0.40 for reduced-cost lunches or \$0.30 for reduced-cost breakfasts. Children from families with income between 130 percent and 185 percent of the **Federal Poverty Level** are certified for reduced-price meals. In the 2005 – 2006 school year, a family of four with an annual income between

\$25,155 and \$35,798 would qualify for reduced-price meals.

School Breakfast Program (SBP) – This **USDA** program helps public and private schools provide nutritious breakfasts to all students. Low-income students are able to receive free or reduced-price meals through the program.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program – A **USDA** program that provides fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs to low-income seniors, as well as increases the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. The program was first authorized in the 2002 **Farm Bill**. The program does not operate in all states.

Simplified Summer Food Service Program – In nineteen states and Puerto Rico this program streamlines reimbursement and paperwork in the **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** by eliminating cost-based accounting. Reimbursement for SFSP sponsors is calculated by “meals times rates,” providing the maximum reimbursement. This program was originally called the **Lugar Pilot Program**. The Simplified Summer Food Service Program currently operates in: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Wyoming and Puerto Rico.

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) – A capped entitlement that provides funds to states to assist with the provision of social services to adults and children. Some states use SSBG funds to support **Home-Delivered Meals** and **Congregate Meals** programs for the elderly.

Soup Kitchen – A community organization that prepares meals for low-income clients. Meals are eaten onsite. Also known as a **Community Kitchen** or **Emergency Kitchen**.

Special Milk Program – A **USDA** program that provides milk to children in schools and childcare institutions who do not participate in other **child nutrition programs**. The program reimburses schools for the milk they serve.

SSI – Supplemental Security Income. A federal assistance program that provides cash benefits to the elderly and disabled. SSI recipients are **categorically eligible** for the **Food Stamp Program**.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) – This **USDA** program provides free meals primarily to children in low-income areas through sponsored programs when school is not in session.

Team Nutrition – A program of the Food and Nutrition Service at the USDA that provides schools with nutrition

education materials for children and families; technical assistance materials for school food service directors, managers, and staff; and materials to build school and community support for healthy eating and physical activity. State agency partners provide training and technical assistance to support these programs in local schools. The Team Nutrition program can be accessed here: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/>.

TEFAP – The Emergency Food Assistance Program. Through TEFAP, the **USDA** makes commodity foods available to states, which in turn provide the food to local agencies, such as food banks. **Food banks** then distribute the food to **food pantries** and **soup kitchens** that serve the public.

TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program. A block grant program enabling states to operate cash-assistance programs and services to help low-income families. Participation in TANF can be used to determine eligibility for many of the nutrition programs.

Thrifty Food Plan – A food plan based upon market baskets of food that people of a specific age and gender could consume at home to maintain a healthful diet that meets current dietary standards. The Thrifty Food Plan is the most economical of four food plans calculated by the **USDA** and is one factor used to determine the amount of a household’s food stamp benefit allotments.

Universal School Breakfast – **School breakfast programs** that provide breakfast at no cost to all students.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture. The federal agency responsible for administration of most nutrition and commodity distribution programs at the federal level.

WIC – the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. This **USDA** nutrition program provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and access to health care to low-income pregnant women, new mothers, and infants and young children at nutritional risk. Participants receive monthly benefits which allow them to purchase food items in the **WIC Food Package**.

WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) – A **USDA** program that provides WIC participants with coupons to be redeemed at local farmers markets for designated fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables. The federal benefit provided through this program is up to \$30 per year, although some states supplement this amount. FMNP does not operate in all states.

WIC Food Package – A group of foods specifically tailored to the nutritional needs of pregnant women, new mothers, and infants and young children that program participants are

able to purchase with WIC benefits. WIC Food Package items include milk, cheese, juice, eggs, beans, peanut butter, iron-fortified cereal and infant formula. The nutritional content of the WIC Food Package is currently under review by the Institutes of Medicine and the **USDA**.

WIC Only Store – A store that stocks only WIC items and serves only WIC customers.

Contact Information:

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Project Web site: www.ncsl.org/programs/immig/hungerpartnership.htm

Definitions of commonly used hunger and nutrition terms can be found in NCSL's Hunger and Nutrition Partnership *Glossary of Hunger and Nutrition Terms* at <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/immig/Glossary.htm>.