NCSL Hunger Partnership

“Senior Nutrition: Meals on Wheels and More”

December 6, 2012

Diana H. Noel, MPA
AARP, State Advocacy and Strategy Integration
Why Hunger?

Nearly **9 million 50+ adults face the risk of hunger.**

Many people 50+ face **impossible choices**: paying grocery or phone bills, medication or mortgage payments, the heating bill or the water bill.

The Greatest Need:

- Food insecurity is by far most prevalent across the South
- The top10 senior hunger states all have rates in excess of 7%, which is 25% higher than the national average

AARP Foundation, 2011
Food Insecurity & Senior Health

- Prevention & wellness services, and chronic disease management among 10 EHB service categories specified in PPACA.

- Early and reliable access to medically-appropriate food and nutrition services can help those with chronic diseases live healthy and productive lives and is cost effective.

- Nutrition supports better health outcomes

- More cost-effective to keep people in their homes vs. expensive hospitals or nursing home care

- Malnutrition is a primary contributor to hospitalization, re-admission and nursing home care

*(Association of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA) 31Jan12 Ltr on EHB)*
### Age & Residence Matters in Identifying Senior Hunger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40-49 Year Olds</th>
<th>50-59 Year Olds</th>
<th>60 and Older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AARP Foundation 2011
Improving Participation in SNAP

• Support outreach targeted to seniors
• Improve coordination among low-income assistance programs
  – Streamline application form and process
  – Train employees on basics of availability of all programs and resources
• Resist changes resulting in eligible households reduced access to benefits or information
AARP State Offices Hunger/Nutrition Outreach
AARP State Offices
Hunger/Nutrition Outreach

Senior hunger projects in 40 of our 53 state offices in 2011 and 2012

– Raising Awareness: 20
– Short-term Support: 26
– SNAP Outreach: 26
– Research and Thought Leadership: 21
Additional Resources

- AARP Benefits QuickLink SNAP Map: http://www.benefitscheckup.org/cf/snap.cfm?partner_id=22&subset_id=0&CFID=5540760&CFTOKEN=90220115


Contacts for More Information

Diana Noel, MPA
AARP
Senior Legislative Representative
State Advocacy and Strategy Integration
dnoel@aarp.org