

## NCSL Hunger Partnership

# “Senior Nutrition: Meals on Wheels and More”

**December 6, 2012**

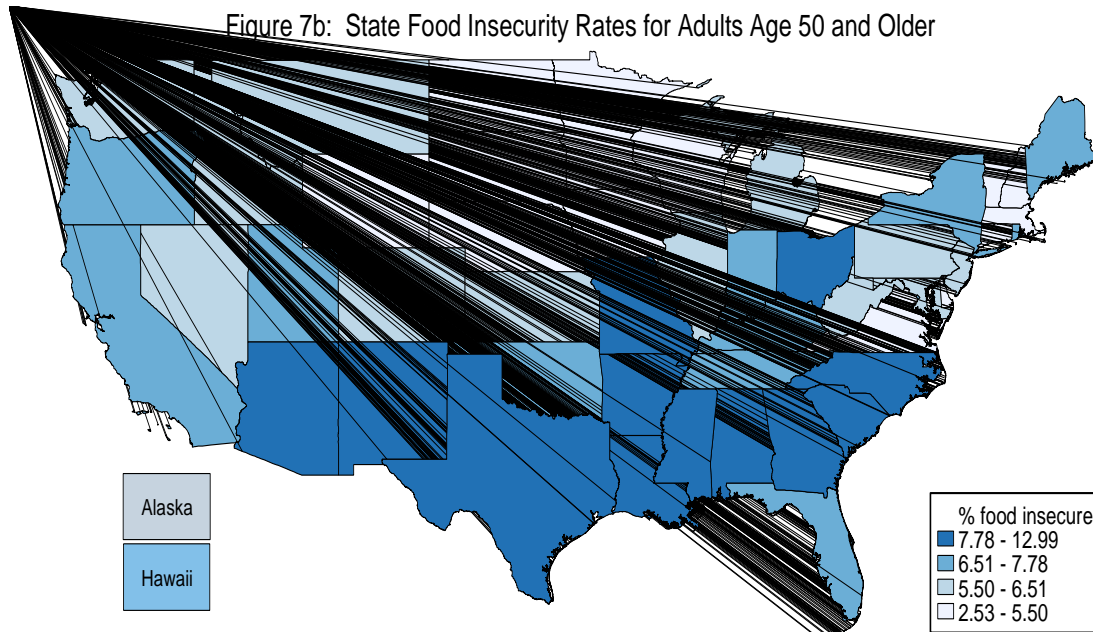
**Diana H. Noel, MPA**  
AARP, State Advocacy and Strategy Integration

# Why Hunger?

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



Figure 7b: State Food Insecurity Rates for Adults Age 50 and Older



## The Greatest Need:

- Food insecurity is by far most prevalent across the South
- The top 10 senior hunger states all have rates in excess of 7%, which is 25% higher than the national average

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

# 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)*

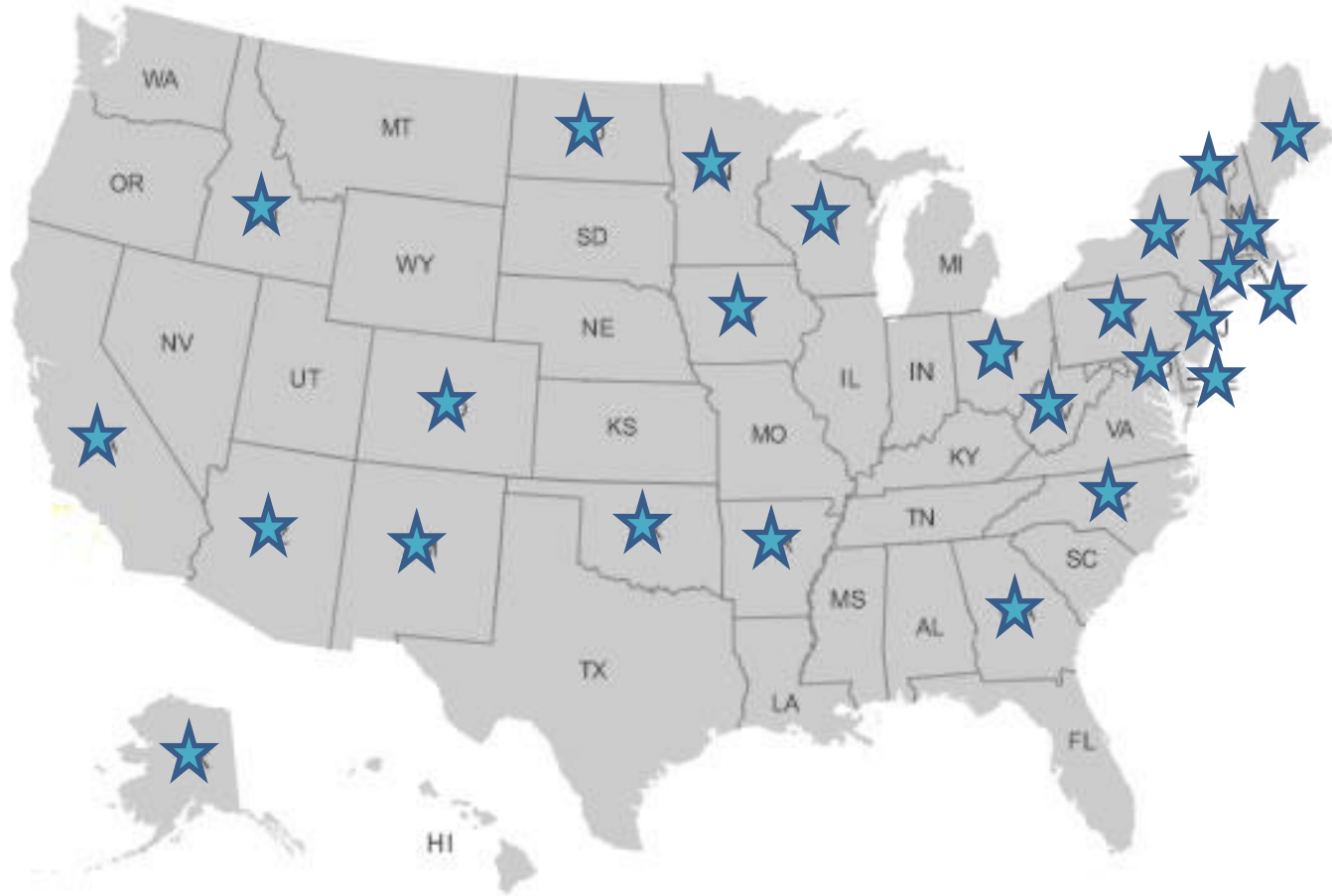
# Age & Residence Matters in Identifying Senior Hunger

40-49 Year Olds	50-59 Year Olds	60 and Older
Arkansas	Mississippi	Mississippi
Oklahoma	New Mexico	New Mexico
Mississippi	Arizona	Texas
Texas	Texas	South Carolina
Utah	South Carolina	Arkansas
Maine	Alabama	Georgia
New Mexico	North Carolina	Louisiana
South Carolina	Oregon	Alabama
Tennessee	Missouri	North Carolina
Florida	Ohio	Oklahoma

# 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](http://www.benefitscheckup.org/cf/snap.cfm?partner_id=22&subset_id=0&CFID=5540760&CFTOKEN=90220115)
- AARP Foundation: <http://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/our-work/hunger.html>
- Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) “SNAP/Food Stamps Outreach and Access Toolkit,” (May 2010):  
[www.frac.org/pdf/snap\\_outreach\\_access\\_toolkit\\_2010.pdf](http://www.frac.org/pdf/snap_outreach_access_toolkit_2010.pdf)
- New York Governor Paterson Press Release, January 2, 2009: <http://www.otda.state.ny.us/main/news/2009/2009-01-02.asp>



# Contacts for More Information

Diana Noel, MPA

AARP

Senior Legislative Representative

State Advocacy and Strategy Integration

[dnoel@aarp.org](mailto:dnoel@aarp.org)