



## **KEY FINDINGS from Hunger in America 2014 for the State of Missouri**

The data below reflect findings for agencies, programs, and clients in the state of Missouri partnered with or served by the Feeding America network. The food banks serving this state include Harvesters – The Community Food Network, Ozarks Food Harvest, Second Harvest Community Food Bank, Southeast Missouri Food Bank, St. Louis Area Foodbank, and The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri.

### **Agency and Program Characteristics**

- An estimated 56 percent of agencies partnered with food banks in the state of Missouri are faith-based or located in a religious institution; 45 percent are not faith-based.

#### *Staffing and Volunteers*

- Approximately 44 percent of partner agencies in the state do not have paid staff and, thus, rely on a volunteer workforce.

#### *Program Supply and Demand*

- An estimated 60 percent of partner food programs in the state reported an increase in the volume of clients coming to the program in the past 12 months.
- Among partner food programs reporting turning away clients for any reason in the past 12 months, an estimated 24 percent did so because they ran out of food.

#### *Agency Nutrition, Health and Other Services*

- An estimated 35 percent of partner agencies in the state provide services related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program).
- An estimated 22 percent of partner agencies in the state provide services related to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

### **Client Counts**

- On an annual basis, 1,190,600 unique clients in this state are served by Feeding America partner food banks.
- Weekly, 125,600 unique clients in this state are served by Feeding America partner food banks.

### **Characteristics of Clients and their Households**

- An estimated 16 percent of clients served by Feeding America partner food banks in Missouri are seniors, aged 60 and older.
- An estimated 70 percent of clients in the state are White, Non-Hispanic; 20 percent are Black, Non-Hispanic; and 3 percent are Hispanic.

#### *Housing*

- Approximately 97 percent of client households in the state live in non-temporary housing, such as a house, apartment, or other accommodation.



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### *Education*

- About 30 percent of adult clients served in the state have completed at least some college, a two-year degree, a four-year degree, or higher.

### *Military Service*

- An estimated 23 percent of client households have a member that has ever served in the military; 3 percent of client households have a member currently serving.

### *Work and Possible Barriers to Employment*

- An estimated 46 percent of client households report at least one employed person at some point in the past year.
- An estimated 16 percent of respondents in the state are responsible for grandchildren in the household.

### *Health*

- An estimated 59 percent of client households have a member with high blood pressure.
- An estimated 32 percent of client households have a member with diabetes.
- An estimated 60 percent of client households have unpaid medical bills.
- An estimated 80 percent have purchased inexpensive, unhealthy food in the last 12 months to try and secure food for themselves and their families.

### *Food Security, Spending Tradeoffs, and Coping Strategies*

- An estimated 79 percent of client households in the state are food insecure.
- In the past 12 months, client households in the state have had to make the following choices:
  - 65 percent have had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine/medical care.
  - 69 percent have had to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities.
  - 54 percent have had to choose between paying for food and paying for housing
  - 66 percent have had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation.
  - 25 percent have had to choose between paying for food and paying for education.
- 69 percent of client households plan to get food from a program partnered with a food bank on a regular basis.

### *Participation in SNAP and Other Government Programs*

- Approximately 60 percent of client households in the state currently receive SNAP benefits.
- An additional 55 percent of client households who are not currently receiving SNAP benefits are potentially income eligible to receive the benefit.