

National Commission on Hunger hosts public hearing in Little Rock, AR

Little Rock, AR (May 12, 2015) — The National Commission on Hunger invites the public to provide input on how to ensure Americans have access to sufficient, healthy food. Public testimony will inform the Commission's recommendations to Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The 10-member National Commission on Hunger is a congressionally appointed bipartisan commission charged with developing innovative reforms in both public and private food assistance programs to reduce or eliminate food insecurity. The recommendations are meant to include ways to more effectively use USDA programs and funds. As part of its information-gathering process, the Commission is conducting a series of public hearings across the country.

The Commission, in collaboration with USDA, RTI International, Share Our Strength, and the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, will host a public hearing in Little Rock, AR, on May 19, 2015, at the Statehouse Convention Center, Fulton Room, 101 E Markham Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 from 9 am – 3 pm ET. Invited speakers will testify from 9:00 am – 12:20 pm and include the following individuals:

- Kathy Webb, Executive Director, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance
- Ed Nicholson, Senior Director of Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Relations, Tyson Foods Inc.
- Rhonda Sanders, CEO, Arkansas Food Bank
- Patrick Casey, Harvey and Bernice Jones Professor of Developmental Pediatrics, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas Children's Hospital
- Eric Saunders, Assistant Commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Arkansas Department of Education
- Jennifer Laurent, Executive Director, Randy Sams' Outreach Shelter
- Charolette Tidwell, Director, Antioch Consolidated Association for Youth and Family
- John Selig, Director, Arkansas Department of Human Services
- Charlotte Douglas, Representative, Arkansas House of Representatives

The Commission will also listen to testimony from the general public from 1 pm – 3 pm. The public and media are invited to the full hearing. The public can sign up for specific times to testify on the website or arrive at the Statehouse Convention Center, Fulton Room between 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm on May 19.

To learn more about the Commission, the public hearing, invited speakers, and upcoming events, visit the Commission website at <https://hungercommission.rti.org/>.



To contact the Commission:

- 1) submit a message at <https://hungercommission.rti.org/Contact> or
- 2) send a tweet to the Commission [@NatlCommHunger](https://twitter.com/NatlCommHunger).

The Hunger Commission held a public hearing in Albany, NY on May 13, 2015, and additional hearings after the Little Rock, AR event are scheduled in Oakland, California; El Paso, Texas; Washington, DC; and Portland, Maine.

For further information on this Little Rock, AR event or other Commission activities, please contact Andrea S. Anater, PhD at RTI International at 919-541-6977 or aanater@rti.org.