

National Commission on Hunger hosts public hearing in Albany, NY

Albany, NY (May 5, 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 United States 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, and the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, will host a public hearing in Albany, NY, on May 13, 2015, at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, 411 State Street, 2nd Floor, Albany, NY 12203 from 9 am – 4 pm ET. Invited speakers will testify from 9 am – 1 pm and include the following individuals:

- Kate Breslin, President & CEO, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
- Linda Bopp, Executive Director, Hunger Solutions NY
- Mark Quandt, Executive Director, Regional Food Bank of NENY
- Edmund J. McMahon, President, Empire Center for Public Policy
- Joel Berg, Executive Director, The NYC Coalition Against Hunger
- Lee Bowes, CEO, America Works
- Janet Poppendieck, Policy Director, NYC Food Policy Center
- Angela Rachidi, Research Fellow in Poverty Studies, American Enterprise Institute

The Commission will also listen to testimony from the general public from 2 pm – 4 pm. The public and media are invited to the full hearing. Three of the 10 commissioners will be in attendance including Co-chair Mariana Chilton, Associate Professor, Drexel University School of Public Health and Director of the Center for Hunger Free Communities; Co-chair Robert Doar, Morgridge Fellow for Poverty Studies, American Enterprise Institute; and Commissioner Russell Sykes, President of Russell Sykes Consulting Services and former Deputy Commissioner of the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

The public can sign up for specific times to testify on the website or arrive at the Rockefeller Institute between 1:30 pm and 2:00 pm on May 13.

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 hearing of expert witnesses in Washington, DC, on March 2, 2015, and additional hearings after the Albany event are scheduled in Little Rock, Arkansas; El Paso, Texas; Portland, Maine; and Oakland, California.

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