



## National Commission on Hunger Florida Association of Food Banks Policy Recommendations

### Child Nutrition

- Summer Food Service Program(SFSP) – Florida has many rural counties in which the current model for SFSP is not effective.
  - current model requires children to consume meals at a designated site only works well when children are already congregating for summer camp, tutoring or other activities. Most low-income children stay home during summer
  - No transportation infrastructure during summer - many children are too young to walk to sites or unable to travel across busy streets or through high crime areas while their parents are at work.
  - Rural areas often don't have summer sites.

### Policy Recommendations:

- Allow community providers to utilize one set of program guidelines for summer and afterschool meals in order to reduce duplication of effort on applications, monitoring, staff training, etc.
- Allow new program models tailored to hard to reach areas.
  - Summer EBT - Provide low-income families of children receiving free or reduced price school meals with an EBT card to purchase food during the summer. The EBT demonstration projects that USDA tested at 14 sites were extensively evaluated and the results were significant. Very low child food insecurity decreased by 33 percent among participating families.
  - Congregate feeding requirement waivers -will help reach more kids. Allowing community providers to deliver meals to families, families to pick up several days-worth of meals for their children or sending meals home with children for days when the site isn't open or they cannot reach the site. Many of our food banks operated privately funded feeding programs in an effort to reach children who cannot attend congregate sites. Combining private and federal funding will enable us to more effectively fill the gaps.

## **Tax Incentives to Help Recover Food/Reduce Food Waste**

- 70 billion pounds of food wasted each year according to USDA estimates. Much of this waste is in ag community.
- USDA could improve coordination of USDA grants to help food banks capture and deliver excess produce to low income clients
- Support expansion of federal tax incentives for donated food, especially for farmers. The current enhanced tax deduction for businesses that donate food is not available to the vast majority- about 95%- of farmers and local growers. Without the enhanced deduction, it costs them more money to donate excess crops than it does to dump them or leave them in the fields.

## **Strengthen TEFAP**

- TEFAP foods represent about 20% of the food distributed to Florida clients.
- Funding for TEFAP storage and distribution has not kept pace with TEFAP food increases.
- The Farm Bill of 2014 authorizes \$100 million for TEFAP storage and distribution each year, yet it has only been funded at about \$49 million per year. This shortage in funding impacts food banks nationwide, especially those serving rural areas. For Feeding America food banks, in 2014 the TEFAP storage and distribution funds provided only about 21.9% of the cost necessary to get TEFAP food distributed to clients.
- Fully funding this would help food banks to continue investing in innovative programs and improve the amount of food we can distribute to Americans in need.

## **Senior Hunger**

- Strengthen federal nutrition programs that serve seniors. Between 2001 and 2012, the number of food insecure seniors increased by 130%. Expanding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program or CSFP, which currently reaches only 2,500 vulnerable seniors in the state of Florida is critical.
- Improve effective SNAP outreach strategies targeted to seniors are also an important lever for ensuring more of our nation's vulnerable seniors get the nutrition they need.