Volunteers & Civic Groups

What can **volunteers and civic groups** do to End Childhood Hunger?



Volunteer and help recruit volunteers at your chosen anti-hunger organization. There are many programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) screening and application assistance centers, Summer Food Service Program sites, food banks, and other anti-hunger organizations, that can use your help to make sure that all eligible people have access to nutrition assistance and anti hunger programs. To find opportunities in your community, visit Serve.gov/endhunger. To find volunteer opportunities with local food banks, click here.

- **Conduct outreach** for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), School Meals, Food Distribution on Indian Reservations, and The Emergency Food Assistance Program and cross-promote Federal nutrition assistance programs. Talk about nutrition assistance programs in your services and meetings. Many people are not aware of the multitude of programs available to individuals and families in need. Those who participate in one Federal nutrition program may not be aware that they are eligible for additional assistance. USDA provides many free resources -- especially for SNAP outreach. See the SNAP outreach page for outreach toolkits, outreach materials, information about receiving reimbursement for outreach activities through your State, radio ads, public service announcements, and more.
 - Think about ways to use your professional skills in a volunteer capacity. Think about what you do every day for work. Your skills may be of use to a nonprofit organization. If you are a painter, an anti-hunger organization may need help painting a children's play room. If you have Web site building skills, offer them up to an anti-hunger organization looking to expand its Web presence. The options are limitless, and the experience of donating your time and skills will be rewarding.
 - **Become a sponsoring organization for afterschool and summer sites.** One reason for low participation rates in the afterschool and summer meal program is the lack of accessible locations. Becoming a sponsoring organization that recruits and oversees the meal service in more sites would increase the access to the programs in your community. Contact your State agency to become a sponsor or a feeding site.

Increase accessibility of farmers' markets. Your organization could help make fresh fruits and vegetables more accessible to under-served communities by hosting a farmers market and encouraging local farmers markets to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. To find out about how to start a farmers market, click here. To find out more about accepting SNAP benefits at farmers markets, click here.

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Partner with a local food bank and host a food pantry. To find food banks in your area, click here.