



The Affordability Crisis and Hunger:

Soaring Costs for Housing and Other Basics of Living Leave Less for Food

2019 United States Hunger Atlas



Executive Summary

Key Findings:

As the USDA previously reported, in 2016-2018, 12.3% (one in eight) of all households in the U.S. were food insecure, meaning they were unable to afford a consistent supply of food throughout the year. The states with the highest rates of food insecurity from 2016-2018 were New Mexico (18.3%), Louisiana (16.9%), Mississippi (16.8%), Arkansas (16.6%), and Oklahoma (16.5%).

Hunger Free America's analysis of federal data found that in 2016-2018:

- 16.6% (one in six) of all children in the U.S. lived in food insecure households. The states with the highest rates of food insecure children were New Mexico (25.2%), Kentucky (24.3%), Arkansas (23.6%), Louisiana (23.0%), and West Virginia (22.8%).
- 9.3% of employed adults in the U.S. lived in food insecure households. That means that one in ten working adults in the country could not afford to fully fill their grocery carts all year.
- The states with the highest rates of food insecurity among employed adults were New Mexico (13.8%), Oklahoma (13.2%), Louisiana (12.2%), Kansas (11.7%), and Arkansas (11.7%).
- In states with a minimum wage set at \$10 or above, an average of 8.2% of employed adults were found to be food insecure, which is more than a full percentage point below the national average of 9.3%. In states with a minimum wage set at \$7.25 or below, an average of 9.5% of employed adults were food insecure, which is slightly above the national average.
- California is the state with the highest number of food insecure employed adults at more than 1.7 million, followed by Texas (1.5 million), Florida (1.1 million), New York (0.6 million), and Ohio (0.5 million).
- In the U.S., 7.6% of older Americans (one in 13), defined as people 60 years and older, lived in food insecure households. Washington D.C. had the highest rate of food insecurity among older Americans at 12.3% followed by New Mexico (12.0%), Mississippi (11.5%), Louisiana (11.4%), and Texas (10.8%).
- Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Mexico, were consistently on the lists of the top ten states with the highest rates of food insecurity for overall individuals, children, employed adults, and older Americans.

- Hunger Free America has pioneered a calculation for how much it would cost to end hunger annually. Nationwide, food insecure Americans would need \$18.3 billion in additional food purchasing power each year to meet their basic food needs, spending as much on food as do non-hungry Americans. The increased food purchasing power could take the form of a combination of higher wages and increased federal nutrition assistance spending.

A Message from Hunger Free America CEO Joel Berg

How can it be?

How can America have widespread hunger at the same time as low unemployment and soaring billionaire wealth?

To answer that basic question, permit me to run through some key statistics: the U.S. unemployment rate averaged only 4.4% in the 2016 to 2018 time period. During those same three years, the Dow Jones Industrial Average skyrocketed by 32 percent, and the net worth of the 400 wealthiest Americans rose by \$500 billion, totaling \$2.9 trillion – yes, *trillion* with a *t* – in 2018.

Yet, as Hunger Free America finds in this report, in those same three years, an average of 39,491 million Americans — **one in eight of our neighbors** — lived in food insecure households, unable to consistently afford enough food. That means that a population larger than the combined populations of Florida, West Virginia, and all six New England states struggled against hunger.

Hunger Free America also calculated that 12.2 million American children – **one in six children** – lived in food insecure homes. Fully 14.3 million American workers and 5.3 million older Americans also struggled against hunger.

So, how *can* it be that, during a time when the official unemployment rate was very low and the wealthiest Americans were doing better than ever, that so many Americans were hungry and impoverished?

The answer is simple: tens of millions of Americans earned too little to keep up with soaring costs for housing, health care, child care, and other basic costs of living. The national minimum wage in 2016-2018 was only \$7.25 per hour, the same level since 2009. The National Low-Income Housing Coalition calculated that a full-time worker would have needed to earn at least \$21.20 per hour to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment during that time period.

Mystery solved. When housing costs nearly three times what the lowest-income workers earn, it's obvious why families would not have much money left over for health care, transportation, child care, education, or even food.

To add to the issue further, tens of millions of Americans who are eligible for federal nutrition safety net assistance fail to receive the help for which they are legally eligible. Without an adequate living wage and the assistance they need to survive, many Americans are left struggling to afford basic necessities.

The bottom line is that the U.S. hunger crisis is, at its core, an affordability crisis.

Thus, the only way to end U.S. hunger is to help Americans better afford food, both by raising wages and ensuring a federal nutrition assistance safety net that is adequately-funded and easy-to-access, including benefits such as: SNAP (formerly known as food stamps); meals on wheels and senior center meals for older Americans; WIC for pregnant women and infants; and school breakfasts, lunches, and summer meals for children. Americans also need to be able to easily access affordable childcare, housing, and health care.

We know that safety net programs work. Not only does SNAP slash hunger, but in 2018 it also lifted 3.4 million people, including 1.5 million children, out of poverty. So why are tens of millions of Americans who are eligible for these programs not receiving the assistance they need? The problem lies within accessibility.

Eligible Americans are often unaware of the benefits they could receive or are unable to visit social services offices to apply because they are too busy at work. That's why Hunger Free America has proposed a groundbreaking plan for federal, state, and local governments to create online HOPE (Health, Opportunity, and Personal Empowerment) accounts and action plans that combine improved technology, streamlined case management, and coordinated access to multiple federal, state, city, and nonprofit programs that already exist. Technology has fundamentally revamped the lives of most Americans, usually for the better, but now it's time to use digital technology – combined with policy improvements – to boost the long-term self-sufficiency of our lowest-income residents and simplify their lives.

We have also proposed that the new federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill, now pending in Congress, ensure that every child in America can access free, nutritious school lunches and breakfast, after-school suppers and snacks, and summer meals without filling out paperwork.

We also know that higher wages make a difference – big time. This annual report finds – yet again – that states with higher minimum wages have lower levels of hunger among working people. While we always keep in mind the old research maxim that “correlation doesn't equal causality” and we cannot say for certain that the *only* reason fewer workers go hungry in such states is due to higher minimum wages, it is obvious that having higher incomes makes it more likely for workers to be able to afford food.

Hunger in America defies all stereotypes. It is among White, Black, Latinx, and Asian people. It's in the suburbs, rural areas, and urban cities. It impacts active-duty military families and veterans. It touches people with disabilities. It harms our neighbors.

Together, we can enact the policies and programs necessary to end hunger once and for all.

Hunger drains our nation both spiritually and economically. That's why our motto is “ending hunger lifts us all.” Let's make that happen. Now, more than ever, we all need such uplift.

A. Methodology

Data from this report was gathered from the USDA's Food Security Supplement to the December 2018 Current Population Survey (CPS). In total, 37,300 households completed the Food Security Supplement, which is nationally representative after applying the Food Security Supplement weights. Data was analyzed by Hunger Free America staff using the U.S. Census Bureau's DataFerret tool.

All analyses used the 12 Month Food Security Summary variable, HRFS12M1, which is the same variable used by the USDA to analyze overall household food insecurity. Data on employed adults was obtained by layering those classified as "employed" in the PREXPLF demographic variable. Calculations for food insecure older Americans used the PRTAGE variable, restricted to those 60+ years old. The analysis on food insecurity among children used the PRTAGE variable as well, restricted to those 17 years and younger.

Numbers were calculated as three-year averages to increase statistical accuracy due to the relatively small sample size in some states. In order to obtain food insecurity data at the individual level as opposed to the household level, person-level weighting was used in this analysis. One should note that in general, data on the proportion of people is more accurate than the data on the total number of people who are food insecure due to sample size.

The annual cost of ending hunger in each of the states was estimated using the overall number of individuals living in food insecure households previously obtained from the Food Security Supplement. The number of food insecure individuals was then multiplied by the difference in median weekly food spending per person between food-secure households and food-insecure households, as reported by the USDA (Coleman-Jensen et al., 2019). This number was then multiplied by the amount of weeks in a year, producing the final cost estimation.

It is important to note that the statistics on food insecurity from the USDA should be interpreted as "individuals living in food insecure households" as opposed to "food insecure individuals." This is due to the fact that the food security survey measures food security status at the household level. Because household members experience food insecurity differently, with some members being more affected than others, this distinction is necessary.

B. Overall Food Insecurity

Nationally, 12.3% of Americans were found to live in food insecure households between 2016 and 2018 (table 1). According to USDA data, the states with the highest rates of food insecure individuals from 2016-18 were New Mexico (18.3%), Louisiana (16.9%), Mississippi (16.8%), Arkansas (16.6%), and Oklahoma (16.5%). Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Mexico were consistently on the lists of the top ten states with the highest rates of food insecurity for overall individuals, children, employed adults, and older Americans.

The states with the lowest rates of food insecurity were New Hampshire (7.3%), Massachusetts (8.7%), New Jersey (8.9%), Colorado (9.1%), and Iowa (9.2%).

Table 1 – Number and Percent of Food Insecure Individuals by State, 2016-2018

State	Number of Food Insecure Individuals	Percentage of Food Insecure Individuals
U.S.	39,491,501	12.3%
Alabama	767,443	16.0%
Alaska	84,149	11.9%
Arizona	932,930	13.4%
Arkansas	489,612	16.6%
California	4,420,393	11.3%
Colorado	501,770	9.1%
Connecticut	450,744	12.8%
Delaware	108,490	11.4%
District of Columbia	77,704	11.4%
Florida	2,682,191	13.0%
Georgia	1,201,493	11.7%
Hawaii	131,520	9.6%
Idaho	189,582	11.2%
Illinois	1,328,559	10.6%
Indiana	942,335	14.3%
Iowa	285,047	9.2%
Kansas	409,119	14.4%
Kentucky	704,856	16.1%
Louisiana	769,648	16.9%
Maine	186,751	14.2%
Maryland	663,723	11.1%
Massachusetts	591,761	8.7%
Michigan	1,235,590	12.6%
Minnesota	507,336	9.2%

Mississippi	488,567	16.8%
Missouri	751,210	12.5%
Montana	119,877	11.5%
Nebraska	230,142	12.2%
Nevada	421,392	14.2%
New Hampshire	96,287	7.3%
New Jersey	791,312	8.9%
New Mexico	374,105	18.3%
New York	2,099,585	10.7%
North Carolina	1,485,620	14.8%
North Dakota	72,895	9.7%
Ohio	1,545,409	13.5%
Oklahoma	637,604	16.5%
Oregon	457,897	11.1%
Pennsylvania	1,434,279	11.4%
Rhode Island	124,649	12.0%
South Carolina	528,567	10.7%
South Dakota	102,501	12.0%
Tennessee	861,455	13.0%
Texas	4,184,059	15.0%
Utah	308,368	10.0%
Vermont	59,143	9.9%
Virginia	815,875	9.9%
Washington	849,473	11.6%
West Virginia	295,260	16.5%
Wisconsin	611,101	10.7%
Wyoming	82,123	14.4%

C. Food Insecurity Among Children

Hunger Free America found that 16.6% of children in the U.S. lived in food insecure households in the 2016-18 time period (table 2). The states with the highest rates of food insecure children were New Mexico (25.2%), Kentucky (24.3%), Arkansas (23.6%), Louisiana (23.0%), and West Virginia (22.8%).

The states with the lowest rates of food insecurity among children were New Hampshire (10.7%), Utah (11.2%), New Jersey (11.4%), South Carolina (11.8%), and Massachusetts (11.9%).

Table 2 - Number and Percent of Food Insecure Children by State, 2016-2018

State	Number of Children Living in Food Insecure Households (2016-18 Average)	Percentage of Children Living in Food Insecure Household
U.S.	12,245,573	16.6%
Alabama	219,655	20.2%
Alaska	28,491	14.9%
Arizona	278,211	16.7%
Arkansas	169,818	23.6%
California	1,281,346	14.2%
Colorado	161,831	13.0%
Connecticut	119,681	15.9%
Delaware	29,107	14.0%
District of Columbia	23,965	18.7%
Florida	778,339	18.3%
Georgia	367,779	14.6%
Hawaii	47,802	15.2%
Idaho	65,761	14.5%
Illinois	391,427	13.5%
Indiana	313,417	19.5%
Iowa	86,681	12.0%
Kansas	135,165	19.2%
Kentucky	244,656	24.3%
Louisiana	256,117	23.0%
Maine	55,854	21.2%
Maryland	204,680	15.2%
Massachusetts	166,613	11.9%
Michigan	342,296	15.8%
Minnesota	193,495	14.8%
Mississippi	151,501	20.6%
Missouri	223,145	16.1%
Montana	39,248	17.2%
Nebraska	80,928	17%
Nevada	140,830	20.2%
New Hampshire	28,475	10.7%
New Jersey	222,980	11.4%
New Mexico	121,719	25.2%
New York	627,383	15.2%
North Carolina	476,552	20.9%
North Dakota	28,274	15.5%
Ohio	481,969	18.2%
Oklahoma	215,621	22.4%
Oregon	127,175	14.4%
Pennsylvania	439,811	16.2%

Rhode Island	37,063	18.0%
South Carolina	130,086	11.8%
South Dakota	32,699	15.1%
Tennessee	242,439	16.0%
Texas	1,422,987	19.3%
Utah	102,526	11.2%
Vermont	19,188	16.1%
Virginia	231,823	12.2%
Washington	297,177	18.0%
West Virginia	84,458	22.8%
Wisconsin	248,298	18.7%
Wyoming	29,007	20.8%

D. Food Insecurity Among Employed Adults

Nationally, 9.3% of employed adults in the U.S. lived in food insecure households during the three-year time period (table 3). The states with the highest rates of food insecurity among employed adults were New Mexico (13.8%), Oklahoma (13.2%), Louisiana (12.2%), Kansas (11.7%), and Arkansas (11.7%).

The least food insecure states among employed adults were New Hampshire (5.4%), Massachusetts (5.5%), District of Columbia (6.5%), Vermont (6.8%), and New Jersey (6.8%).

Data on the proportion of food insecurity among employed adults in each state was compared with state-level minimum wages. In states with a minimum wage set at \$10 or above, an average of 8.2% of employed adults were found to be food insecure, which is more than a full percentage point below the national average of 9.3%. In states with a minimum wage set at \$7.25 or below, an average of 9.5% of employed adults were food insecure, which is slightly above the national average. Hunger Free America also compared the proportion of food insecure employed adults to the minimum wage in states with a minimum wage above the federal level (\$7.25 per hour). The results showed a negative correlation, meaning higher minimum wages correlated with lower rates of food insecurity (figure 1).

Table 3 – Number and Percent of Food Insecure Employed Adults by State, 2016-2018

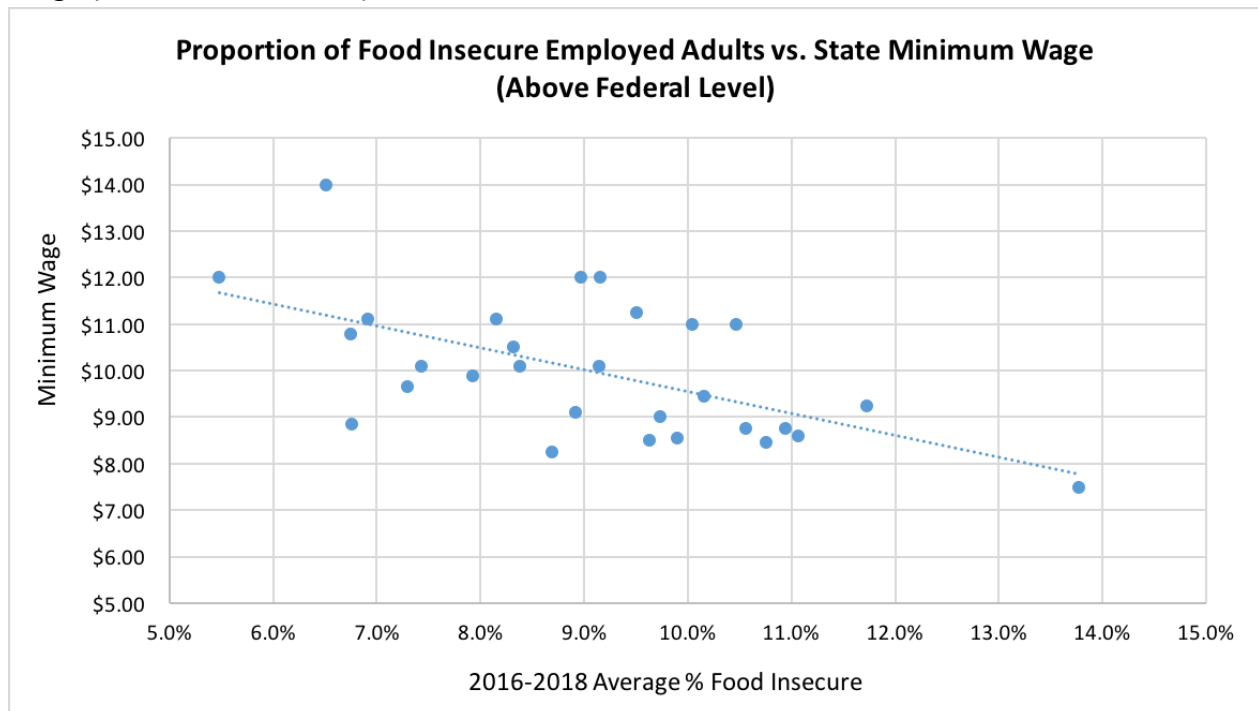
State	Number of Employed Adults Living in Food Insecure Households	Percentage of Employed Adults Living in Food Insecure Households	State Minimum Wage
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U.S.	14,368,492	9.3%	
Alabama	230,697	11.2%	No state minimum*
Alaska	26,253	7.9%	\$9.89
Arizona	337,817	10.5%	\$11.00
Arkansas	147,525	11.7%	\$9.25
California	1,695,779	9.2%	\$12.00
Colorado	249,471	8.2%	\$11.10
Connecticut	170,616	9.1%	\$10.10
Delaware	48,577	10.6%	\$8.75
District of Columbia	24,876	6.5%	\$14.00
Florida	1,057,948	10.8%	\$8.46
Georgia	382,640	8.0%	\$5.15*
Hawaii	49,945	7.4%	\$10.10
Idaho	73,226	9.0%	\$7.25
Illinois	534,150	8.7%	\$8.25
Indiana	316,413	9.9%	\$7.25
Iowa	108,409	6.8%	\$7.25
Kansas	166,138	11.7%	\$7.25
Kentucky	197,163	10.1%	\$7.25
Louisiana	249,680	12.2%	No state minimum*
Maine	67,468	10.0%	\$11.00
Maryland	266,069	8.4%	\$10.10
Massachusetts	193,424	5.5%	\$12.00
Michigan	476,880	10.2%	\$9.45
Minnesota	220,551	7.3%	\$9.65
Mississippi	140,958	11.6%	No state minimum*
Missouri	319,354	11.1%	\$8.60
Montana	48,558	9.6%	\$8.50
Nebraska	95,151	9.7%	\$9.00
Nevada	163,576	11.6%	\$7.25
New Hampshire	38,853	5.4%	No state minimum*
New Jersey	296,363	6.8%	\$8.85
New Mexico	120,677	13.8%	\$7.50
New York	632,768	6.9%	\$11.10
North Carolina	467,462	9.9%	\$7.25
North Dakota	28,622	7.2%	\$7.25
Ohio	542,004	9.9%	\$8.55
Oklahoma	233,590	13.2%	\$7.25
Oregon	199,798	9.5%	\$11.25
Pennsylvania	523,652	8.6%	\$7.25
Rhode Island	44,950	8.3%	\$10.50

South Carolina	162,506	7.3%	No state minimum*
South Dakota	39,003	8.9%	\$9.10
Tennessee	296,604	9.4%	No state minimum*
Texas	1,497,868	11.3%	\$7.25
Utah	132,480	8.6%	\$7.25
Vermont	22,804	6.8%	\$10.78
Virginia	347,578	8.5%	\$7.25
Washington	319,192	9.0%	\$12.00
West Virginia	80,368	10.9%	\$8.75
Wisconsin	225,536	7.4%	\$7.25
Wyoming	29,330	10.6%	\$5.15*

*Most employees are covered under the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour in states with no state minimum wage or with one below the federal minimum.

Figure 1 – Proportion of Food Insecure Employed Adults (3 Year Average) vs. State Minimum Wage (Above Federal Level)



E. Food Insecurity Among Older Americans

In the U.S., 7.6% of older Americans, defined as people 60 years and older, lived in food insecure households (table 4). District of Columbia had the highest rate of food insecurity among older Americans at 12.3% followed by New Mexico (12.0%), Mississippi (11.5%), Louisiana (11.4%), and Texas (10.8%).

The states with the lowest rates of food insecurity among seniors were Minnesota (2.7%), North Dakota (3.0%), Idaho (3.3%), Hawaii (4.2%), and Wisconsin (4.3%).

Table 4 – Number and Percent of Food Insecure Older Americans by State, 2016-2018

State	Number of Older Americans Living in Food Insecure Households (2016-18 Average)	Percentage of Older Americans Living in Food Insecure Households
U.S.	5,333,916	7.6%
Alabama	113,217	10.3%
Alaska	8,703	7.0%
Arizona	139,424	9.2%
Arkansas	63,566	9.0%
California	603,409	7.8%
Colorado	55,934	5/0%
Connecticut	63,287	7.7%
Delaware	12,155	5.2%
District of Columbia	14,819	12.3%
Florida	413,064	7.7%
Georgia	162,327	8.2%
Hawaii	14,308	4.2%
Idaho	11,835	3.3%
Illinois	195,136	7.7%
Indiana	120,559	8.2%
Iowa	45,905	5.9%
Kansas	56,791	9.2%
Kentucky	82,636	8.3%
Louisiana	112,003	11.4%
Maine	28,163	7.9%
Maryland	86,365	6.7%
Massachusetts	110,497	7.1%
Michigan	177,717	7.6%
Minnesota	31,310	2.7%
Mississippi	74,275	11.5%
Missouri	100,378	6.9%
Montana	13,781	5.1%
Nebraska	23,467	5.6%
Nevada	55,634	8.6%

New Hampshire	16,817	5.1%
New Jersey	115,675	5.9%
New Mexico	57,482	12.0%
New York	292,546	6.5%
North Carolina	203,637	9.3%
North Dakota	4,626	3.0%
Ohio	204,998	7.7%
Oklahoma	78,055	9.2%
Oregon	52,251	5.2%
Pennsylvania	194,793	6.0%
Rhode Island	20,507	8.2%
South Carolina	112,281	9.3%
South Dakota	12,275	6.3%
Tennessee	121,228	7.9%
Texas	534,247	10.8%
Utah	35,431	7.2%
Vermont	8,947	5.2%
Virginia	86,413	4.9%
Washington	75,734	5.3%
West Virginia	48,576	10.0%
Wisconsin	59,251	4.3%
Wyoming	7,482	5.9%

F. Cost of Ending Hunger

Hunger Free America has pioneered how much it would cost to end hunger annually. Nationwide, food insecure Americans would need \$18.3 billion in additional food purchasing power each year to meet their basic food needs, spending as much on food as do non-hungry Americans (table 5). The increased food purchasing power could take the form of a combination of higher wages and increased federal nutrition assistance spending. The same concept was used to calculate the cost of ending hunger in each state.

Table 5 – Cost of Ending Hunger by State

State	Number of Food Insecure Individuals (2016-18 Average)	Cost of Ending Hunger
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U.S.	34,991,501	\$18,305,282,204
Alabama	767,443	\$355,728,710
Alaska	84,149	\$39,005,132
Arizona	932,930	\$432,435,851
Arkansas	489,612	\$226,947,361
California	4,420,393	\$2,048,961,052
Colorado	501,770	\$232,582,893
Connecticut	450,744	\$208,931,087
Delaware	108,490	\$50,287,629
District of Columbia	77,704	\$36,017,716
Florida	2,682,191	\$1,243,261,665
Georgia	1,201,493	\$556,921,562
Hawaii	131,520	\$60,962,755
Idaho	189,582	\$87,876,075
Illinois	1,328,559	\$615,819,934
Indiana	942,335	\$436,795,608
Iowa	285,047	\$132,126,297
Kansas	409,119	\$189,636,566
Kentucky	704,856	\$326,718,095
Louisiana	769,648	\$356,750,627
Maine	186,751	\$86,563,837
Maryland	663,723	\$307,651,784
Massachusetts	591,761	\$274,295,781
Michigan	1,235,590	\$572,726,515
Minnesota	507,336	\$235,162,716
Mississippi	488,567	\$226,462,823
Missouri	751,210	\$348,204,160
Montana	119,877	\$55,565,938
Nebraska	230,142	\$106,676,478
Nevada	421,392	\$195,325,404
New Hampshire	96,287	\$44,631,239
New Jersey	791,312	\$366,792,578
New Mexico	374,105	\$173,407,025
New York	2,099,585	\$973,209,143
North Carolina	1,485,620	\$688,621,571
North Dakota	72,895	\$33,788,471
Ohio	1,545,409	\$716,335,089
Oklahoma	637,604	\$295,545,139
Oregon	457,897	\$212,246,369
Pennsylvania	1,434,279	\$664,823,445
Rhode Island	124,649	\$57,777,723

South Carolina	528,567	\$245,003,653
South Dakota	102,501	\$47,511,581
Tennessee	861,455	\$399,305,739
Texas	4,184,059	\$1,939,414,429
Utah	308,368	\$142,935,999
Vermont	59,143	\$27,414,235
Virginia	815,875	\$378,178,133
Washington	849,473	\$393,751,478
West Virginia	295,260	\$136,860,428
Wisconsin	611,101	\$283,260,501
Wyoming	82,123	\$38,066,185

G. Federal Policy Recommendations

1. Congress should raise the national minimum wage and index future raises to the rate of inflation.
2. Defeat the Trump Administration’s proposed “public charge” rule that would make it more difficult for legal immigrants to get food, health care, and housing help. While this has been temporarily stopped by the courts, we must defeat any similar, follow-up proposals.
3. Defeat all of the Trump Administration’s administrative proposals that would take away food assistance from low-income Americans.
4. Congress should both expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — (SNAP) formerly known as the Food Stamp Program — eligibility and increase benefit allotments for SNAP by adopting the moderate cost food plan.
5. Congress should remove the counter-productive requirement that full-time college students work 20 hours per week in addition to their studies in order to qualify for SNAP.
6. Congress should make it easier for low-income, active duty military families to receive SNAP.
7. Congress should pass a Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill that significantly reduces child hunger by making nutritious school lunches and breakfasts free for all students without requiring paperwork from their families.
8. Congress should authorize state and local pilot projects to create H.O.P.E. (Health, Opportunity, and Personal Empowerment) accounts and action plans. H.O.P.E. accounts would combine improved technology, streamlined case management, and coordinated access to multiple federal, state, city, and nonprofit programs that already exist. The accounts would enable families to use any smart device or computer to learn about the public and philanthropic programs for which they are eligible — including aid to improve health, nutrition, job training and placement, housing, income, etc. — and then apply for all of these programs at

once from the convenience of their device, drastically reducing the opportunity costs of low-income Americans seeking social services. Such accounts would also be able to include any private savings that people are able to accrue. The proposal includes the option of allowing low-income families to partner more in depth with government and nonprofit organizations by voluntarily agreeing to long-term H.O.P.E. action plans that will provide more aid and then specify exactly how all parties will work together to help the families earn, learn, and save better to ensure greater economic opportunity. For more information, see: <https://www.progressivepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/REPORT-Fighting-Poverty-with-HOPE.pdf>

9. Congress should create a national targeted jobs program focused on repairing our infrastructure, boosting energy independence (a Green New Deal), and bringing broadband service to isolated rural towns and urban neighborhoods.
10. Congress should fund a dramatic expansion of the AmeriCorps national service program to both fill unmet societal needs and make post-secondary education attainable for everyone willing to serve.
11. Congress should enact an employee profit-sharing and employee ownership initiative to make it easier for workers to have a real stake in the success of their workplaces.

H. References

Coleman-Jensen, Alisha, Matthew P. Rabbitt, Christian A. Gregory, and Anita Singh. 2019. *Household Food Security in the United States in 2018*. ERR-270, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.



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Hunger Free America Contact Information:

Mailing Address:

50 Broad Street, Suite 1103

New York, NY 10004

Website: www.HungerFreeAmerica.org

Email: naber@hungerfreeamerica.org

Phone: 646-627-7741