

HUNGRY FOR CHANGE

Hunger and Poverty in Nebraska

Nebraska is the 24th hungriest state and 36th poorest state in the country.

- **One in 7 households (13.9 percent) struggle to put food on the table,** compared to 1 in 7 nationwide.
- **More than 57.5 percent of Nebraska households** in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) **are working households.**



- **More than 227,310 people live in poverty** (\$24,817 per year for a family of four), including nearly 1 in 6 children.
- 1,462,485 people worked full-time, year-round in 2014, yet the poverty rate remains 1.2 percentage points higher than before the recession.

A full-time job is no longer enough to keep a family out of poverty. Programs like SNAP (formerly food stamps), the earned income tax credit (EITC) and child tax credit (CTC), and child nutrition programs help fill the gap between wages and basic living expenses. For example, nationwide in 2014:

- **SNAP kept 4.7 million people out of poverty.**
- **The EITC and CTC kept 10 million people, including more than 5 million children, out of poverty.**
- **School lunches kept 1.3 million children out of poverty.**
- **WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) kept 430,000 people out of poverty.**

Sources of data: USDA ERS Household Food Security in the United States in 2014, Table 4; 2014 ACS data tables S2201, S1701, B23027, and S1701

To end hunger by 2030, Congress must enact policies today that support that goal, including:

- **Passing a child nutrition bill that protects child nutrition programs and connects more hungry children with healthy meals while not cutting SNAP or other safety-net programs.** For every 6 low-income children who receive free or reduced-price lunches at school, only about 3 also receive breakfast, and only 1 also receives meals during the summer.
- **Making critical expiring provisions of the EITC and CTC permanent.** If these provisions expire, 16.4 million people, including 7.7 million children, will fall into or deeper into poverty. **Additionally, Congress must fix the glaring gap in the EITC for low-income adults without kids who find themselves taxed into poverty.**
- **Avoiding budget brinksmanship and passing a responsible budget that addresses sequestration cuts so anti-poverty programs don't suffer from further cuts.** Congress would need to increase funding for low-income housing vouchers or rental assistance by at least \$1.5 billion just to renew the assistance that current families are receiving.
- **Raising the federal minimum wage** so that people working full time can live above the poverty line.

