April 8, 2020,

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE:  Strengthen SNAP in the Next Federal COVID-19 Relief Package to Lift Up Vulnerable Families and the Economy

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy,

We the undersigned organizations appreciate the investments and economic supports provided for in the CARES Act to help laid-off workers, older Americans and children, but there is more that needs to be done. During this time of soaring unemployment and financial insecurity, we were disappointed that the legislation did not include provisions to strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We strongly urge Congress and the Administration to increase the SNAP benefit levels in the next federal COVID-19 relief package.

The unprecedented disruption to the economy, incomes, and employment triggered by COVID-19 means that communities will need every option available to fight hunger and strengthen the economy. SNAP serves as a frontline defense against food insecurity, poverty, and the long-term detriments they cause. By providing families with a grocery benefit they can use to purchase food directly, SNAP is a safe, effective way to ensure that low-income children, families, and seniors can get the food they need.

While the CARES Act included increased funding for SNAP to cover the costs associated with an increase in caseload, it did not raise benefits for SNAP recipients. Given the extraordinary increase in need during this public health pandemic and related economic crisis, we urge you to use the next federal relief package to strengthen SNAP by increasing the maximum benefit available to all households by 15% and increasing the minimum benefit from $16 dollars to $30. This increase is needed to offset the significant loss in income and soaring unemployment resulting from COVID-19-related closures and disruptions.

Strengthening SNAP will not only feed families – it will also boost the economy. Economists estimate that every dollar in federally funded SNAP benefits during a recession generates between $1.50 and $1.80 in economic activity because it frees cash for poor households to buy other essential items, like diapers and medication, and provides revenue directly to stores, thus helping maintain local jobs. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service estimates that every $1 billion invested in SNAP supports 13,600 jobs and approximately $32 million in farm revenue. Therefore, as the federal government continues to evaluate effective policies to stimulate the economy, we recommend that the increase to SNAP
benefits as outlined above be kept in place until the economy recovers from its current shock.

We are also asking Congress to delay the implementation of proposed and final rules that the Administration has issued for SNAP. The implementation of new rules on program eligibility and restrictions would exacerbate the hardship of low-income families and children. Implementation of these regulations would also divert vital state resources away from responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on communities across the nation. Now is not the time to finalize and implement these harmful restrictions on kids and families in need.

In sum, we appreciate the work that Congress and the Administration have done to help Americans struggling during this trying time, but more is required. Given the unprecedented nature of this crisis, seniors, families, and children need SNAP benefits more than ever before. Congress should act now to make these benefits more robust, which will ensure that everyone is able to put food on the table in the coming months and support the economic recovery.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
A Place at the Table
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AIARD (Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development)
Alliance for Retired Americans
Alliance to End Hunger
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Public Health Association
American Society for Nutrition
Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Balanced
Basic Needs, Simple Solutions
Bread for the World
CareCentrix
Cargill, Incorporated
CCFP (Child Care Food Program) Roundtable
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Church World Service
Coalition on Human Needs
Congressional Hunger Center
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
DSM North America
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Feeding America
First Focus Campaign for Children
Fontheim International, LLC
Food Enterprise Solutions
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Food Trust (The)
FoodCorps
FoodFinder
Foodshare
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth
Gerontological Society of America (The)
Global Volunteers
Healthy Food America
Heuristic Management
Hunger Free America
ICNA Relief, USA
Imamia Medics International
Islamic Relief USA
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Federations of North America (The)
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
Link2Feed
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Meals on Wheels America
MomsRising
Move For Hunger
Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)
Muslims Against Hunger
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Muslim COVID Coalition
National Center for Frontier Communities (The)
National Council of Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Farm to School Network
National Farmers Union
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
National Senior Corps Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National WIC Association
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nourished Principles, LLC (The)
Penny Appeal USA
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Poetry X Hunger
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
ProMedica
Prosperity Now
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Institute
RESULTS
Root Cause Coalition (The)
Rural Coalition
Save the Children
Save the Children Action Network
Seed Programs International
Share Our Strength
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
Trust for America’s Health
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Way Worldwide
Urban School Food Alliance
WhyHunger
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
World Renew
Zakat Foundation of America

State & Local
Food Bank of Alaska AK
RESULTS Anchorage AK
Adventist Community Services, Ephesus AL
Alabama Childhood Food Solutions Inc. AL
Birmingham Bible Church AL
Changed Lives Christian Center AL
Christian’s Place Mission AL
Food Bank of East Alabama AL
Grace Episcopal Food Pantry AL
Grace Klein Community AL
Greater Birmingham Ministries AL
Green Valley Baptist Church Food Bank AL
Holy Rosary Food Pantry AL
Hope Inspired Ministries AL
Manna Ministries AL
Metro West AL
Ministries of Deliverance Foodbank AL
New Generation Apostolic Church of God AL
New Life SDA Church - Pantry AL
Servant of Jesus AL
South Highland Presbyterian Church AL
St. Mark's Episcopal Church AL
The Foundry Ministries AL
The University of Alabama at Birmingham MSW program AL
Trinity United Methodist Church AL
Woodlawn Community Table, Inc. AL
Word of Faith Food Pantry AL
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance AR
University of Arkansas AR
White County Aging Program, Inc. AR
Arizona Community Farmers Market Group AZ
Arizona Food Bank Network AZ
Cornucopia Community Advocates AZ
Dine' Food Sovereignty Alliance AZ
Pinnacle Prevention AZ
RESULTS Phoenix AZ
RESULTS Tucson AZ
Sun Produce Cooperative AZ
The International Sonoran Desert Alliance AZ
WHEAT (World Hunger Education, Advocacy & Training) AZ
Wildfire: Igniting Community Action to End Poverty in Arizona AZ
Alameda County Community Food Bank CA
Alliance Medical Center CA
Bakersfield Senior Center Inc CA
B'nai Israel Jewish Center CA
California Association of Food Banks CA
California Food Policy Advocates CA
Cloverdale Food Pantry CA
Coastal Seniors, Inc. CA
Community Action Partnership of Orange County/OC Food Bank CA
Community Care CA
Crossing the Jordan Inc. CA
Ecology Center CA
Elisha’s Pantry, Santa Rosa CA
F.I.S.H. of Santa Rosa CA
Feeding San Diego CA
Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano CA
Food for People, the Food Bank for Humboldt County CA
Food Share of Ventura County CA
Fresh Approach CA
Iglesia Centro de Sanidad of Santa Rosa CA
Lassen Senior Services, Inc. CA
Live Oak Seniors, Inc. CA
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank CA
Meals on Wheels California CA
Meals on Wheels Orange County CA
Neighbors Organized Against Hunger (NOAH) CA
RESULTS California CA
RESULTS Grass Valley CA
RESULTS Oakland CA
RESULTS San Diego (Domestic) CA
RESULTS San Francisco CA
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Shelter of Wisdom  HI
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Food Bank of Iowa  IA
Northeast Iowa Food Bank  IA
RESULTS Des Moines  IA
River Bend Foodbank  IA
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force  ID
AMITA Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center  IL
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital  IL
Asociacion de Promotores de Salud/Health Promoters  IL
Beyond Hunger  IL
C. E. O. Cousins Empowerment Optimists of Optimist International  IL
Chatham Food Pantry Ministry  IL
CHICAGO COMMONS - Childhood Education  IL
Chicago Food Policy Action Council  IL
Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children  IL
Coppin Community Center  IL
Enlace Chicago  IL
Gads Hill Center  IL
Gardeneers  IL
Garfield Park Community Council  IL
Gary Comer Youth Center  IL
Greater Chicago Food Depository  IL
Illinois Hunger Coalition  IL
La Casa Norte  IL
Latin United Community Housing Association LUCHA  IL
Mercy Hospital & Medical Center  IL
NAMI South Suburbs of Chicago.  IL
New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ  IL
Northern Illinois Food Bank  IL
PRCC (The Puerto Rican Cultural Center)  IL
Respond Now  IL
River Bend Foodbank  IL
Rust Youth Connection  IL
Shriver Center on Poverty Law  IL
St. Louis Area Foodbank  IL
The Friendship Center  IL
The Land Connection  IL
UIC Office of Community Engagement & Neighborhood Health Partnerships  IL
Village of Richton Park  IL
Area 10 Agency on Aging of Monroe & Owen Counties, Inc.  IN
Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Service  IN
Bloomington Food Policy Council  IN
Chapel of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Campus Ministry  IN
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana  IN
Faith in Indiana  IN
Family Christian Development Center
Feeding Indiana's Hungry
Food Bank of Northern Indiana
Food Bank of Northwest Indiana
Food FINDERS Food Bank, Inc.
Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana
Hoosier Beverage Association
Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc.
Indiana Institute for Working Families
Indianapolis Worker Justice Center
Indy Hunger Network
Mishawaka Food Pantry, Inc.
Northwest Indiana Food Council
RESULTS Indianapolis
River Park United Methodist Church Food Pantry
Shepherd's Cove Food Pantry
Thrive Alliance
Urban Seeds
Adult & Teen Challenge of the Midwest
Agape Resource Center
Bird City Community Food Bank
BrightHouse Inc.
Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
Citizens' Climate Lobby Kansas Chapter
College Crest Church of Christ Soup Kitchen
Community Assistance Center
Decatur County Food Pantry
Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas
Eastern Cowley County Resource Center
Ellis Food Boxes
Family Crisis Services, Inc.
Family Resource Exchange, Inc
First Metropolitan Community Church of Wichita
Genesis Inc. of Coffeyville
Hartford Community Food Pantry
Healthier Lyon County and Lyon County Food and Farm Council
HSH Homeless Ministry Inc.
Humanity House Foundation
Kansas Foodbank Warehouse Inc.
Labette County Emergency Assistance Center
Marion County Food Bank
Miracles, Inc.
New Beginnings Seventh-day Adventist Church
North Central Kansas Food Council
Obadiah's Pantry
Project Hope
Reach Out Food Pantry
RESULTS Lawrence
RESULTS Manhattan  KS
RESULTS Topeka  KS
Revolution Fellowship  KS
Safehouse Crisis Center, Inc  KS
Second Harvest Community Food Bank  KS
Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry  KS
Sisters of St. Joseph Dear Neighbor Ministries  KS
The Salvation Army-Wichita City Command  KS
Union Rescue Mission  KS
Wichita Fellowship Club Inc.  KS
Dare to Care Food Bank  KY
Facing Hunger Foodbank Inc.  KY
Feeding Kentucky  KY
Freestore Foodbank  KY
Gods Hands Ministry  KY
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  KY
Lloyd Nazarene Food Pantry  KY
Raceland Christian Church  KY
RESULTS Lexington  KY
Allen Council on Aging, Inc  LA
Christian Service Center  LA
Feeding Louisiana  LA
Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana  LA
Fund 17  LA
Louisiana Appleseed Center for Law & Justice  LA
Louisiana Association of United Ways  LA
Louisiana Budget Project  LA
Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families  LA
New Orleans Breastfeeding Center  LA
New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee  LA
Second Harvest Food Bank  LA
SPROUT Nola  LA
St. Teresa Center for the Works of Mercy  LA
STOP. AFRC  LA
The First 72+  LA
United Way of Southeast Louisiana  LA
Al Nelson Friendship Center Food Pantry  MA
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)  MA
Berkshire Food Project  MA
Blessed Sacrament Church  MA
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)  MA
Bridgewater Council on Aging  MA
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc.  MA
Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.  MA
Central West Justice Center  MA
Children's HealthWatch  MA
Easthampton Community Center  MA
Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)  MA
Exodus Home, Inc.  MA
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<td>Mississippi Center for Justice</td>
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<td>Big Sky Senior Services</td>
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<td>Billings BackPack Meals and Teen Pantry Programs</td>
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<td>Community Hope Inc.</td>
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<td>Farm Hands - Nourish the Flathead</td>
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<td>Flathead Food Bank</td>
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Fort Belknap Community Economic Development Corporation MT
Harlem Area Senior Citizens Center MT
Harvesters--The Community Food Network MT
Healthy By Design Coalition of Yellowstone County MT
HOPE Pantry MT
Missoula Aging Services MT
Missoula Food Bank MT
Montana Food Bank MT
Montana Food Bank Network MT
Montana WIC Affiliate MT
Musselshell County Food Bank MT
NAEDC (Nakoda Aaniiih Economic Development Corporation) MT
Neighbors Helping Neighbors MT
Pondera Food Pantry MT
SAFE MT
Sanders County Coalition For Families MT
Soft Landing Missoula MT
Southwestern Montana Family YMCA MT
St Labre Youth & Family Services MT
St. Vincent de Paul of North Central Montana MT
Stephens House MT
Teton County Food Pantry MT
The Yaak Food Cupboard MT
Vineyard Mercy Ministry MT
Wibaux Food Bank MT
Bountiful Cities NC
Centralina Area Agency on Aging NC
Feeding the Carolinas NC
MANNA FoodBank NC
Meals on Wheels Wake County NC
North Carolina Alliance for Health NC
RESULTS Asheville NC
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina NC
Warren County Senior Center NC
Great Plains Food Bank ND
RESULTS Grand Forks ND
Food Bank of Lincoln NE
Nebraska Applesseed Center for Law in the Public Interest NE
RESULTS Lincoln NE
RESULTS Omaha NE
Greater Nashua Food Council NH
New Hampshire Food Bank NH
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH) NH
RESULTS Seacoast NH/ME NH
Community FoodBank of New Jersey NJ
GRACE NJ
Hunger Free New Jersey NJ
Middle Earth NJ
NJ SOPHE NJ
Food Bank of Central New York  NY
Food Bank of the Southern Tier  NY
Foodlink  NY
Grace Episcopal Church West Farms  NY
Greenpoint Reformed Church Hunger Program  NY
Hunger Solutions New York  NY
Long Island Cares, Inc.-The Harry Chapin Food Bank  NY
Los Redimidos en la Sangre de Cristo  NY
Meals on Wheels of Chemung County  NY
Mt Hebron/Food for Life Pantry  NY
Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development, Bronx  NY
Nazareth Housing Inc.  NY
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)  NY
Sephardic Bikur Holim  NY
South Asian Council for Social Services  NY
St. John's Bread and Life Program, Inc.  NY
Trinity's Services And Food for the Homeless  NY
United Community Centers, Inc.  NY
University Consultation Center  NY
Walk in Love Family Center  NY
Way Out Church Ministries  NY
Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2  OH
Childhood Food Solutions  OH
Children's Hunger Alliance  OH
Co-op Cincy  OH
Dare to Care Food Bank  OH
Euclid Hunger Task Force  OH
Facing Hunger Foodbank Inc.  OH
Freestore Foodbank  OH
Greater Cleveland Food Bank  OH
Hall Hunger Initiative  OH
HAPCAP (Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action)  OH
Lee Miles Hunger Center  OH
Local Matters  OH
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Meals on Wheels Guernsey County-Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center, Inc.  OH
Mid-Ohio Foodbank  OH
RESULTS Cleveland  OH
RESULTS Columbus  OH
Second Harvest Food Bank Mahoning Valley  OH
Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio  OH
Shared Harvest Foodbank  OH
Southeast SDA Pantry  OH
The Foodbank, Inc.  OH
University Settlement  OH
Vineyard Community Church of Wickliffe  OH
Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma  OK
Oklahoma Policy Institute  OK
<table>
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<td>FOOD for Lane County</td>
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<td>Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon</td>
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<tr>
<td>RESULTS Corvallis</td>
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<td>RESULTS Portland</td>
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<td>The Curriculum of Cuisine</td>
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<td>ACTION-Housing, Inc.</td>
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<td>Allegheny Valley Association of Churches</td>
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<td>BTC CENTER, INC</td>
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<td>Cambria County Backpack Project</td>
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<td>Center for Hunger-Free Communities, Drexel University</td>
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<td>Center for Victims</td>
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<td>Christian Assembly</td>
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<td>Coalition for Low Income Pennsylvanians</td>
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<td>Community Action Agency of Delaware County, INC.</td>
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<td>Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center</td>
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<td>Cray Youth And Family Services, Inc.</td>
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<td>Grandview Church of God Food Pantry</td>
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<td>Hunger Free PA - PA Food Banks</td>
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<td>Interchurch Food Bank</td>
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<td>Just Harvest</td>
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<td>Lawrence County Housing Authority</td>
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<td>Pantry of Plenty at Sandy Hill Church</td>
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<td>Rainbow Kitchen Community Services</td>
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<td>RESULTS Partners in Health</td>
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St Paul's Meals on Wheels  PA
SVDP Food For Families  PA
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Union Baptist Church Food Pantry  PA
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Unity Baptist Church  PA
Unity Food Pantry  PA
Valley View Church  PA
West Chester Food Cupboard  PA
West Hills Food Pantry  PA
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Windber Area Community Kitchen  PA
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URI Feinstein Hunger Center  RI
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Lowcountry Food Bank  SC
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BCCAA/Smoky Mountain Meals on Wheels  TN
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RESULTS Oak Ridge  TN
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Tennessee Justice Center  TN
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The Nashville Food Project  TN
BakerRipley  TX
Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozana  TX
Bridge Community Church  TX
Center Church Food Bank  TX
Center for Public Policy Priorities  TX
Centro Cristiano Luz del Valle  TX
Christian Life Church  TX
Desert Spoon Food Hub  TX
Doctors for Change  TX
East Texas Food Bank  TX
El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank  TX
Faith Pleases God Church Food Pantry  TX
Feeding Texas  TX
First United Methodist Church of Weslaco, TX
FUMC, Food Pantry, TX
Hidalgo County PCT 4 Endowment Community Center, TX
Houston Food Bank, TX
Iglesia Bautista Calvario De Weslaco, TX
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, TX
La Posada Providencia, TX
McAllen Food Pantry-El Divino Redentor UMC, TX
Meals on Wheels North Central Texas, TX
Meals On Wheels Senior Services of Rockwall County, TX
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Primera Iglesia Rosa De Saron RGB, Inc., TX
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RESULTS Dallas Global Group, TX
RESULTS Houston, TX
San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB), TX
San Benito Food Pantry, TX
St Mary's Works of Mercy, TX
St. Vincent de Paul, TX
Tarrant Area Food Bank, TX
Templo Calvario, TX
The Common Market Texas, TX
Vincention Small Christian Community, TX
Weslaco SDA Food Pantry, TX
Utahns Against Hunger, UT
Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, VA
Capital Area Food Bank, VA
Cumberland Community Cares, VA
FACES Food Pantry, VA
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St. Thomas’ Food Pantry, VA
The CornerStone Community Development Center, VA
Virginia Poverty Law Center, VA
Hunger Free Vermont, VT
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Vermont Legal Aid, Inc., VT
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RESULTS Olympia, WA
RESULTS Seattle, WA
RESULTS Snohomish County, WA
RESULTS South Kitsap/Gig Harbor, WA
RESULTS Tacoma, WA
RESULTS Tri-Cities, WA
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Feeding Wisconsin WI
Hunger Task Force WI
RESULTS Milwaukee WI
Second Harvest Heartland WI
Blessings from God Food Pantry WV
Cabwaylingo Food Pantry WV
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ECCHO WV
Facing Hunger Foodbank Inc. WV
Madison Christian Center AOG Food Pantry WV
Miracle Island Unlimited Food Pantry WV
New Beginnings Church of God #LoveKenova Food Pantry WV
Nitro (WV) Mission Team WV
Playmates Preschools & Child Development Center of Westmoreland WV
Sixth Avenue Church of Christ WV
The Lifehouse, Inc. WV
The Storehouse Food Pantry WV
Wayne High School Food Bank WV
West Side Food Pantry WV
RESULTS Cheyenne WY

cc:
Chairman Colin Peterson, House Committee on Agriculture
Ranking Member Mike Conaway, House Committee on Agriculture
Chairman Pat Roberts, Senate Committee on Agriculture
Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, Senate Committee on Agriculture