

**Testimony Submitted by Anne Goodman, President and CEO**  
**Cleveland Foodbank, Cleveland, Ohio**  
**for the Senate Agriculture Committee hearing**  
***Healthy Food Initiatives, Local Production, and Nutrition***  
**Wednesday, March 7, 2012**

On behalf of the Cleveland Foodbank, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. The Cleveland Foodbank serves over 230,000 people<sup>i</sup> in a six county service territory and last year distributed enough food for 27 million meals.<sup>ii</sup> Our food bank is a member of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, a 12-member association working to secure resources and advocate for policies on behalf of food banks and hungry people. We are also a member of Feeding America, a national network of over 200 food banks working in partnership with 61,000 local agencies like soup kitchens, emergency shelters, and food pantries to serve 37 million people each year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors.<sup>iii</sup>

**The Role of Food Banking**

In Ohio, 17.1 percent of individuals are food insecure, nearly 2 million people.<sup>iv</sup> This is unacceptable and ensuring access to adequate nutrition for low-income families should be a priority for our nation. In addition to our traditional role distributing emergency food, many food banks are now operating a variety of programs to meet the needs of food insecure people. The face, geography and timeline of hunger are not uniform, and a range of complementary programs and tactics are necessary to serve clients of different ages or mobility levels; families with temporary, episodic, or long-term need; and communities spanning rural and urban, low- and high-income areas. We leverage federal and state programs and partner with diverse private, non-profit, and public stakeholders.

In 2011, the Cleveland Food Bank provided 34 million pounds of food for distribution through 450 local agencies.<sup>v</sup> We rely on a variety of public and private sources for the food we receive and distribute. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is particularly important and provides about 27 percent of food at our food bank and 25 percent of the food moving through

Feeding America's national network of food banks.<sup>vi</sup> Food banks supplement TEFAP with a range of other food streams, including food donated from grocery retailers, food manufacturers, state agencies and food purchased using charitable contributions. At the Cleveland Foodbank, in addition to the 27 percent of our food that comes from TEFAP, we receive 11 percent from retailers, 21 percent from national and local manufacturers, and 21 percent from the State of Ohio and purchase the remaining 20 percent.<sup>vii</sup> Policies such as the charitable tax deduction, the enhanced food donation tax deduction, and even the reduced non-profit mailing rate support our efforts to raise much needed food and funds.

About 34 percent of our client households include children under age 18, and 15 percent include seniors age 65 and over.<sup>viii</sup> These particularly vulnerable populations cause extra concern. Research has shown that children cannot grow and learn properly without good nutrition, and a lack of adequate nutrition for children has a lasting impact. Seniors are more likely to have difficulty preparing or consuming food due to limited mobility, cognitive impairments, and other age-related conditions.<sup>ix</sup> We have programs specifically targeted toward children that supplement the school lunch and breakfast program. We have afterschool meals, weekend backpacks, summer feeding, and nutrition education geared toward vulnerable children to help them develop and grow. We also operate programs targeted specifically at vulnerable seniors. In recognition of the limited mobility that many in this population face, we distribute Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) senior food packages and operate a mobile pantry in a senior high rise facility.

Because 79 percent of our client households have income at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty guideline, we conduct outreach to connect those clients with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).<sup>x</sup> This outreach is especially important for clients in need of more than just short-term food assistance. We operate mobile food pantries to reach clients in rural and underserved areas and partner with local farmers' markets to increase access in urban food deserts.

Too often hunger and obesity present dual burdens for low-income families. We have a Nutrition Academy that trains our local agencies in how to cook healthy meals, buy healthy ingredients on a budget, educate their clients about the effects of good nutrition on their

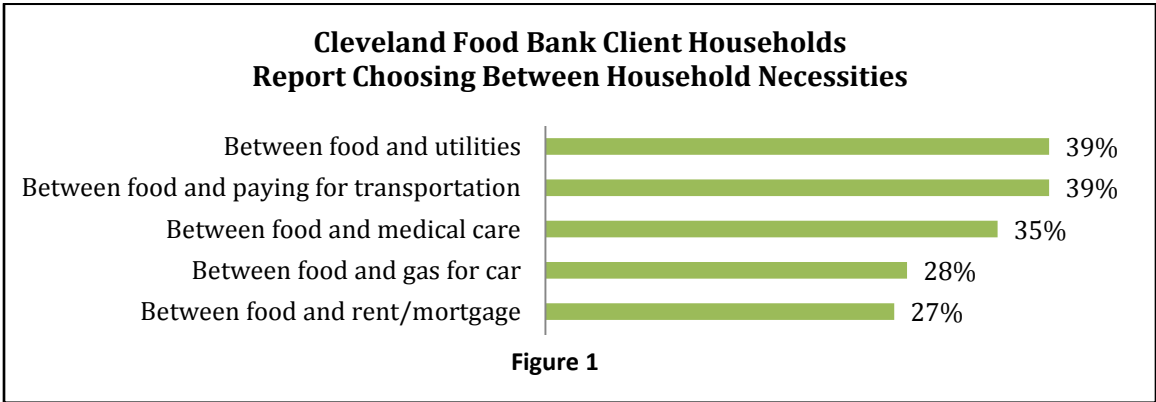
health, and experience how good vegetables they might be unfamiliar with can taste. We also provide nutrition education utilizing community gardens, and educational materials to help low-income individuals and children learn how to grow, and prepare a nutritious meal using the food they have grown, cared for and harvested.

We leverage strong relationships with local farmers to increase our distribution of fresh produce. Through generous support from the state of Ohio, our state network of food banks is the largest purchaser of Ohio produce. This supports our aggressive produce purchasing initiatives aimed at increasing the amount of fresh produce available to our clients. We are in conversation with local partners about establishing a flash-freezing facility that would enable us to store produce so we can make frozen fruits and vegetables available to our clients during the winter as well.

### **Increasing Demand for Food Assistance**

The Cleveland Foodbank and food banks around the country have seen a significant increase in the need for food assistance in the last several years due to the recession. Though Ohio's unemployment rate has recently dipped to 7.9 percent, it remains higher in some of the areas we serve, and poverty and food insecurity are still higher than ever.<sup>xi</sup> Many people are working but scraping by on reduced wages as they have seen their hours cut back. Our state, too, is suffering from the mortgage crisis that has families struggling to hold onto their homes. Even as the unemployment rate begins to fall, we continue to see increases in need. Some of these are families who held on as long as they could, spending down savings and cutting expenses, but who could not quite ride out the recession.

The face of hunger in America is a family making difficult choices between basic necessities. It is a family choosing between paying the mortgage or putting food on the table. It is a senior choosing between buying medicine or food. According to *Hunger in America 2010*, a quadrennial study by Feeding America, 39 percent of Cleveland Foodbank client households reported choosing between food and utilities, 35 percent between food and health care, and 27 percent between food and housing.<sup>xii</sup>



What is unique about the elevated need in this recession is that many families are accessing food assistance for the first time. Some of our volunteers who used to make regular donations to the food bank are now regular clients. But while hunger’s encroachment into the middle class has received a lot of attention, we must not forget that this recent spike in demand and the new faces we are seeing were built on top of a long-term, underlying poverty problem whereby families struggle to attain economic opportunity and self-sufficiency.

The increased hardship brought by the recession has demonstrated both the tremendous effectiveness of the nutrition safety net and also revealed a few weak points that Congress has an opportunity to address in the 2012 Farm Bill reauthorization.

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**

TEFAP is truly the foundation of the emergency food system, supplying about 25 percent of all the food moving through Feeding America’s national network of food banks and 27 percent of the food provided to Cleveland Foodbank in 2011 – enough for about 7 million meals.<sup>xiii</sup> TEFAP is a means-tested federal program that provides food commodities at no cost to Americans in need of food assistance through emergency food providers like food banks, pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.<sup>xiv</sup>

There are three main funding streams through TEFAP. Mandatory TEFAP commodities were set at \$250 million annually in the 2008 Farm Bill and adjust annually for food price inflation. Bonus TEFAP commodities are provided when USDA purchases surplus commodities to stabilize weak

agricultural markets or purchases commodities to meet the Farm Bill specialty crop purchase requirement. TEFAP storage and distribution funding is funded separately through the annual appropriations process and provides states with funding to assist food banks and other emergency food providers in defraying the costs to store, transport and distribute this food .

TEFAP has a strong, positive impact on America's farm economy. All commodity products made available by USDA are produced in America. Producers of commodities provided through bonus TEFAP purchases receive an estimated 85 cents per dollar of Federal expenditure. Producers of commodities provided through TEFAP mandatory purchases receive about 27 cents per dollar.<sup>xv</sup> By contrast, only about 16 cents of every retail food dollar goes back to the farmer.<sup>xvi</sup>

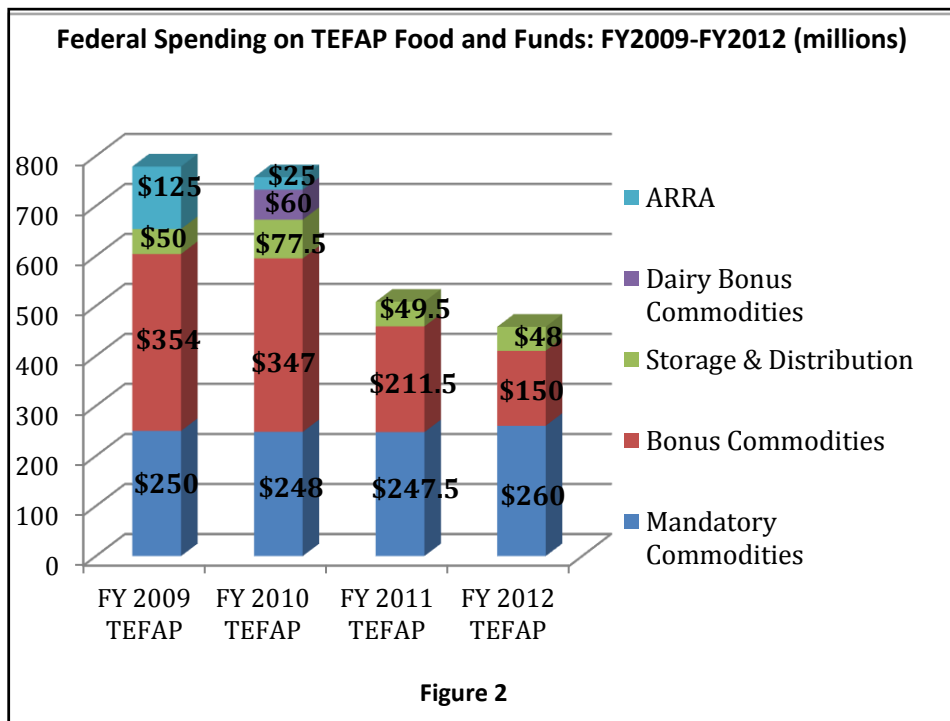
TEFAP commodities are also high in nutritional value. USDA selects foods for TEFAP that are low in sugar, salt, and fat as recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. TEFAP foods include fruits canned in water or light syrup, low-sodium canned vegetables, and leaner meats. A January 2012 USDA study rated TEFAP foods at 88.9<sup>xvii</sup> on the Healthy Eating Index (HEI), significantly higher than the HEI score of 57.5<sup>xviii</sup> for the average American diet. Vegetables and fruits represent 33 percent of food by weight delivered through TEFAP, with proteins comprising another 33 percent. Cereals, grains, starches, milk, and oil make up the remainder.<sup>xix</sup> Last year, for example, the Cleveland Foodbank received 1 percent milk, whole chickens, fresh oranges, fresh potatoes, and applesauce among other items. These products are invaluable when, like us, you consider nutrition to be a high priority.

Because the variety and quantity of charitable food donations fluctuate month-to-month, TEFAP commodities enable emergency food providers to acquire types of items that may be lacking in donations from private entities. Unfortunately, the need for emergency food assistance has outpaced supply, in part because of sharp declines in TEFAP bonus commodities at a time of high unemployment, leaving food banks without a strong base supply of food.

Recent high food prices and strong agricultural markets have led to less USDA intervention in the agriculture economy, resulting in a 30 percent drop in TEFAP commodity purchases in FY2011.<sup>xx</sup> In FY2011, TEFAP provided approximately \$459 million worth of nutrition food commodities, compared to \$655 million in FY2010. Bonus TEFAP commodities provide a

substantial portion of overall TEFAP commodity support. For example, in 2011, the Cleveland Foodbank received 5.1 million pounds of mandatory TEFAP commodities and 4 million pounds of bonus TEFAP commodities.<sup>xxi</sup> Thus declines in bonus TEFAP purchases have a significant impact on our ability to serve our clients. In 2012, the Cleveland Foodbank expects bonus TEFAP commodities to drop to 2.3 million pounds, a more than 42 percent decline from the already much lower levels we saw in 2011.<sup>xxii</sup>

This drop off is occurring at a time when food banks are experiencing sharply increased need due to widespread unemployment and reduced wages. Feeding America’s national network of food banks experienced a 46 percent increase in demand for food assistance from 2006 to 2010.<sup>xxiii</sup> Many food banks continue to report increases in demand and are struggling to make up the difference. At the Cleveland Food bank, the declines in available TEFAP commodities combined with significant increases in demand have hit us hard. We are forced to increase the amount of food we purchase, and are working aggressively to raise the necessary funds, so that we have enough food to provide for our clients.



There are three important steps that the Committee can take in the Farm Bill to prevent such significant shortfalls between supply and demand. First, increase mandatory funding for TEFAP commodities to better reflect the rising demand for food assistance resulting from higher unemployment and food insecurity. We are grateful that the Committee recognized this need in its recommendations to the Super Committee of a \$100 million increase in TEFAP over 10 years. However, nationally, TEFAP saw a nearly \$200 million decline in 2011 alone, and more funding is urgently needed. The Committee should also enhance the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to purchase bonus commodities not only when agriculture markets are weak but also when the economy is weak and the need for emergency food assistance is high so the program is responsive to both excess supply and excess need. High need could be defined by elevated unemployment, food insecurity, and poverty, or by the designation of large-scale regional or national disasters. Finally, the Committee should designate that a portion of the specialty crop purchase requirement be provided to food banks.

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

SNAP is the foundation of the nutrition assistance safety net, delivering monthly benefits to 46 million participants through electronic debit (EBT) cards that can be used to purchase groceries at over 200,000 authorized retailers nationwide.<sup>xxiv</sup> One of the strongest features of SNAP is its ability to adjust quickly to fluctuations in economic conditions, whether nationally as during the recent recession, or locally as in response to a plant closing or natural disaster, providing benefits that are timely, targeted, and temporary. SNAP's responsiveness to unemployment proved it to be one of the most effective safety net programs during the recent recession, providing families with a stable source of food. As the number of unemployed people increased by 94 percent from 2007 to 2011, SNAP responded with a 70 percent increase in participation over the same period.<sup>xxv</sup>

SNAP benefits are also targeted at our most vulnerable. 76 percent of SNAP households included a child, elderly person, or disabled person, and these households receive 84 percent of all SNAP benefits.<sup>xxvi</sup> While SNAP serves households with income up to 130 percent of poverty, the vast majority of SNAP households have income well below the maximum. 85 percent of SNAP households have gross income at or below 100 percent of the poverty line, or \$22,350 for

a family of four, and these households receive 93 percent of all benefits.<sup>xxvii</sup> Similarly, SNAP rules limit eligibility to households with assets of no more than \$2000, but most SNAP households fall far short of the maximum, and the average SNAP household has assets of only \$333.<sup>xxviii</sup>

Finally, SNAP provides benefits that are temporary. The average amount of time a new participant spends on SNAP is about 10 months, and the SNAP benefit formula is structured to provide a strong work incentive.<sup>xxix</sup> For every additional dollar a SNAP participant earns, their benefits decline by about 24 to 36 cents, not a full dollar, so participants have incentive to find a job, work longer hours, or seek better-paying employment.

SNAP is a highly efficient program and its accuracy rate of 96.19 percent is one the highest among federal programs.<sup>xxx</sup> Two-thirds of all SNAP payment errors are a result of caseworker error and nearly 20 percent of payment errors are underpayments, which occur when participants receive less in benefits than the amount for which they are eligible.<sup>xxxi</sup>

Because SNAP participation follows trends in poverty and unemployment, as the economy recovers and unemployment and poverty fall, SNAP participation will decline. The Congressional Budget Office projects that SNAP will shrink to nearly pre-recession levels as the economy recovers and need abates; however, these declines will take time, and

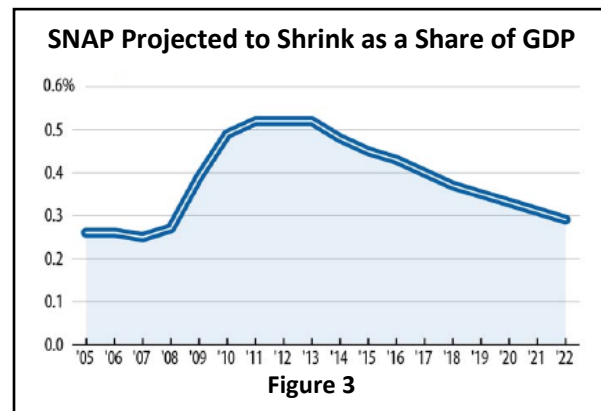


Figure 3

past recessions demonstrate a lag time between falling unemployment and declining SNAP participation. Even as jobs become available, families may not be able to regain their pre-recession income. With heavy competition for jobs, workers with higher education and skills will get back to work first, while recovery for low-income workers will take longer. It is critical that Congress protect the current structure of SNAP and oppose efforts to block grant the program to allow it to continue to respond effectively to fluctuations in need.

The recent recession also highlighted the inadequacy of the SNAP benefit. For many families, SNAP benefits do not last the entire month. The average monthly SNAP benefit per person was



\$133.85 in Fiscal Year 2011, or less than \$1.50 per person per meal,<sup>xxxii</sup> hardly enough for an adequate nutritious diet. Most SNAP benefits are used up before the end of the month, with 90 percent of benefits redeemed by day 21.<sup>xxxiii</sup> As a result, many SNAP participants regularly turn to food banks to make up the difference. A September 2011 Feeding America study found that 58 percent of food pantry clients receiving SNAP benefits turn to food pantries for assistance for at least 6 months out of the year.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

In recognition of SNAP benefit inadequacy and the increased need for food assistance in the recession, Congress provided a temporary boost to SNAP benefit levels in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). A U.S. Department of Agriculture study demonstrated that this boost reduced food insecurity even as poverty and unemployment continued to grow, underscoring the need for increased benefit levels in order to make progress against hunger.<sup>xxxv</sup> Unfortunately, Congress rescinded part of the boost to pay for legislation in 2010, which will subject families to a sharp cliff in benefit levels on November 1, 2013 rather than allowing the boost to phase out gradually as intended. Congress should restore the cut to the SNAP ARRA benefit boost used to pay for the 2010 child nutrition bill and phase out the boost in a way that protects families from a cliff in benefit levels. In the long-term, Congress should consider permanent improvements to benefit adequacy to make greater progress against hunger and enable families to afford more nutritious foods.

### **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)**

CSFP provides nutritious monthly food packages to low-income participants, nearly 97 percent of whom are seniors living at or below 130 percent of poverty (\$14,157 for a senior living alone).<sup>xxxvi</sup> Nationally the program serves nearly 600,000 people each month, including over 20,000 in Ohio.<sup>xxxvii</sup> The program is designed to meet the unique nutritional needs of participants, supplementing diets with a monthly package of healthy, nutritious USDA commodities, helping to combat the poor health conditions often found in food insecure seniors. The senior population is increasing every day and will continue to grow. They will live longer, many on fixed incomes that will not keep pace with inflation, increasing the risk of senior food insecurity.

According to National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data, food insecure seniors over the age of 60 are significantly more likely to have lower intakes of major vitamins, to be in poor or fair health, and to have limitations in activities of daily living.<sup>xxxviii</sup> A January 2012 USDA study found that the CSFP senior food package provides 23 percent of seniors' total energy needs and contained a third or more of the recommended daily reference intake (DRI)<sup>xxxix</sup> for protein, calcium, vitamins A and C, and several B vitamins.<sup>xl</sup> The report rated CSFP's senior food package at 76.6 on the Healthy Eating Index (HEI), significantly higher than the HEI score of 57.5 for the average American diet.<sup>xli</sup>

CSFP leverages government buying power to maximize the impact of the monthly food package. The USDA commodity foods included in the package are all American produced products. While the cost to USDA to provide the food package is about \$20 per month, the average retail value is \$50, making it a highly efficient use of federal dollars.<sup>xlii</sup>

CSFP also serves a small number of women, infants, and children up to age six living at or below 185 percent of poverty, reflecting the fact that CSFP was the precursor to WIC.<sup>xliii</sup> However, nearly 97 percent of participants are seniors<sup>xliv</sup>. In recognition of CSFP's evolution to serving primarily seniors, Ohio made CSFP a seniors-only program in 2010, and both Feeding America and the National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association recommend that Congress make CSFP a seniors-only program in the upcoming Farm Bill. This transition should protect women, infants, and children currently enrolled in the program by grandfathering their participation until they are no longer eligible for the program under current rules.

### **Nutrition Promotion**

Nutrition education has become a big part of what we do because of the special difficulties faced by the clients our agencies serve in affording a nutritious diet. In Ohio, one-third of our children will be obese by the time they reach Kindergarten.<sup>xlv</sup> Lack of access to affordable, nutritious foods, inadequate resources and community factors can often lead to the dual burden of food insecurity and obesity. The Cleveland Foodbank now offers education on helping clients shop on a budget and offer cooking classes and demonstrations of healthy foods. We also provide healthy recipes using produce and education to children on gardening. We work with

the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association so that we can coordinate efforts to promote healthy eating.

SNAP nutrition education (SNAP-Ed) helps families maximize limited benefits and improves their nutrition and health. SNAP-Ed initiatives around the country have demonstrated increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, changed food purchasing habits, and decreased likelihood of being overweight.<sup>xlvi</sup> Many food banks are leveraging SNAP-Ed dollars to help their clients maximize their limited food budgets through nutrition education programs.

Some food banks are working with local partners through Community Food Projects competitive grants to establish community gardens and create innovative programs that connect low-income families with food produced by local farmers. These projects can provide hands-on nutrition education, increase access to fresh, healthy produce in under-served communities, and offer opportunities for job training.

Congress can continue to promote better nutrition by maintaining SNAP-Ed, incentivizing the purchase of healthy foods, and strengthening SNAP national vendor standards to improve the availability of healthy foods. Healthier kids and families will lead to lower future health care costs and investing in SNAP nutrition education is a wise use of federal resources.

## **Conclusion**

In closing, it is important to emphasize that fighting hunger is a public-private partnership. Hunger is a national problem, and it needs a national solution that brings the resources and strengths of both private charity and a strong federal safety net. Charity can do a lot, but food banks like mine cannot fill the gap if TEFAP commodity support does not increase and if cuts are made to critical programs like SNAP.

The need for food assistance is very real, and your support for nutrition programs in the upcoming Farm Bill is critical. Hunger and malnutrition cost our society in many ways, including higher health care costs and lower workforce productivity and worse health and educational outcomes. These are costs we cannot afford.

In light of the immense budgetary pressures to reduce the federal deficit, it must be all too easy to think about these programs as numbers on a ledger. But these decisions will affect real people in communities all across America. I encourage each of you to visit the food banks serving your state to see for yourself the challenges your constituents are facing and how effectively these programs are working to serve them.

As the Committee makes decisions about how to allocate limited resources, I urge you to continue protecting families from hunger and supporting good nutrition by protecting SNAP, investing in TEFAP, and exploring innovative opportunities to support low-income families and local farmers at the same time.

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- <sup>i</sup> Rhoda Cohen, J. Mabli, F. Potter, Z. Zhao, *Hunger in America 2010*, Feeding America, February 2010.
- <sup>ii</sup> Cleveland Foodbank, Food Sourcing data, Fiscal Year 2011.
- <sup>iii</sup> Rhoda Cohen, J. Mabli, F. Potter, Z. Zhao, *Hunger in America 2010*, Feeding America, February 2010.
- <sup>iv</sup> Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. Map the Meal Gap 2011, Feeding America, 2011.
- <sup>v</sup> Cleveland Foodbank, Food Sourcing data, Fiscal Year 2011.
- <sup>vi</sup> Feeding America, Food Sourcing data, Feeding America Fiscal Year 2011.
- <sup>vii</sup> Cleveland Foodbank, Food Sourcing data, Fiscal Year 2011.
- <sup>viii</sup> Rhoda Cohen, J. Mabli, F. Potter, Z. Zhao, *Hunger in America 2010*, Feeding America, February 2010.
- <sup>ix</sup> Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, *The Role of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in Nutritional Assistance to Mothers, Infants, Children, and Seniors*, August 2008.
- <sup>x</sup> Rhoda Cohen, J. Mabli, F. Potter, Z. Zhao, *Hunger in America 2010*, Feeding America, February 2010.
- <sup>xi</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted, December 2011. <http://www.bls.gov/lau/>
- <sup>xii</sup> Rhoda Cohen, J. Mabli, F. Potter, Z. Zhao, *Hunger in America 2010*, Feeding America, February 2010.
- <sup>xiii</sup> Feeding America and Cleveland Foodbank, Food Sourcing data, Fiscal Year 2011.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Feeding America analysis of USDA data, Federal Fiscal Year 2011.
- <sup>xv</sup> Levedahl, J. William, Nicole Ballenger and Courtney Harold. Comparing the Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Food Stamp Program. AER-689. USDA, ERS, June 1994. <http://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/CAT10666721/PDF>
- <sup>xvi</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, *A Revised and Expanded Food Dollar Series: A Better Understanding of Our Food Costs*, ERS No. 114, February 2011, 2008 Marketing Bill Series, Farm Share, Figure 2. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR114/ERR114.pdf>
- <sup>xvii</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, *Nutrient and MyPyramid Analysis of USDA Foods in Five of Its Food and Nutrition Programs*, Table 3-43. January 2012. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/CNP/FILES/NutrientMyPyramid.pdf>
- <sup>xviii</sup> Cole, Nancy and Fox, Mary Kay. Diet Quality of Americans by Food Stamp Participation Status: Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1999-2004, Table C-10. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, July 2008, page C-34. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/snap/FILES/Participation/NHANES-FSP.pdf>.
- <sup>xix</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, *Nutrient and MyPyramid Analysis of USDA Foods in Five of Its Food and Nutrition Programs*, Figure 3-10. January 2012. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/CNP/FILES/NutrientMyPyramid.pdf>
- <sup>xx</sup> Feeding America analysis of USDA Data, Federal Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011.
- <sup>xxi</sup> Cleveland Foodbank, Food Sourcing data, Fiscal Year 2011
- <sup>xxii</sup> Cleveland Foodbank, Food Sourcing data, Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Rhoda Cohen, J. Mabli, F. Potter, Z. Zhao, *Hunger in America 2010*, Feeding America, February 2010.
- <sup>xxiv</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Benefit Redemption Division. *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program 2010 Annual Report*. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailers/pdfs/2010-annual-report.pdf>.
- <sup>xxv</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Annual Program Data, 2007 and 2011. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/SNAPsummary.htm> Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Unemployment Data, 2007 and 2011. [http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNU03000000?years\\_option=all\\_years&periods\\_option=specific\\_periods&periods=Annual+Data](http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNU03000000?years_option=all_years&periods_option=specific_periods&periods=Annual+Data)
- <sup>xxvi</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2010*. Table A.14. September 2011. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/snap/SNAPPartHH.htm>
- <sup>xxvii</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2010 – Table 3-1*. September 2011.

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<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/snap/FILES/Participation/2010Characteristics.pdf>. 100 percent of the federal poverty guideline is \$18,530 for a family of three. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2011. <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/11poverty.shtml>

<sup>xxviii</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2010*. Table A.5. September 2011. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/snap/FILES/Participation/2010Characteristics.pdf>

<sup>xxix</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Dynamics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation in the Mid-2000s, September 2011. [http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/SNAP/FILES/Participation/DynamicsMid2000\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/SNAP/FILES/Participation/DynamicsMid2000_Summary.pdf)

<sup>xxx</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. Press Release: Nation's Primary Nutrition Assistance Program Reaches Highest Accuracy Rate in History of the Program. July 2011. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/PressReleases/2011/0256.htm>.

<sup>xxxi</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office. *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Payment Errors and Trafficking Have Declined, but Challenges Remain*. July 2010. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-956T>

<sup>xxxii</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation and Costs*. FY2011 (data as of February 1, 2012). <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/SNAPsummary.htm>

<sup>xxxiii</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. *Benefit Redemption Patterns in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*. Final Report. Table III.1. February 2011. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/SNAP/FILES/ProgramOperations/ARRASpendingPatterns.pdf>

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Feeding America. *Food Banks: Hunger's New Staple*. Preliminary Findings. September 2011. <http://feedingamerica.org/press-room/in-the-news/the-new-normal.aspx>

<sup>xxxv</sup> *Food Security Improved Following the 2009 ARRA Increase in SNAP Benefits*, by Mark Nord and Mark Prell, ERR-116, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, April 2011. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/err116/>

<sup>xxxvi</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2011 Poverty Guidelines, *Federal Register*, Vol. 76, No. 13, January 20, 2011, pp. 3637-3638. <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/11poverty.shtml> Note: The 2011 federal poverty guideline is \$10,890 for a one-person household living at 100 percent of the poverty guideline and \$14,157 for a one-person household living at 130 percent of the poverty guideline.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Commodity Supplemental Food Program Y2012 Caseload Allocations.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Seligman, H., Bindman, A., Vittinghoff, E., Kanaya, A., Kushel, M. *Food Insecurity is Associated with Diabetes Mellitus: Results from the National Health Examination and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 1999-2002*.

<sup>xxxix</sup> The DRI is a group of standards developed by the Institute of Medicine's Food and Nutrition Board to assess the adequacy and quality of nutrient intakes. The DRI is the most recent set of dietary recommendations and they replace previous Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA). RDA is now one of several standards included in the DRI group of standards.

<sup>xi</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, *Nutrient and MyPyramid Analysis of USDA Foods in Five of Its Food and Nutrition Programs*. January 2012. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/CNP/FILES/NutrientMyPyramid.pdf>

<sup>xli</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, *Nutrient and MyPyramid Analysis of USDA Foods in Five of Its Food and Nutrition Programs*, Table 3-17. January 2012. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/CNP/FILES/NutrientMyPyramid.pdf>

<sup>xlii</sup> Feeding America analysis of U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Program Information Report (keydata), U.S Summary FY2011. Extracted January 2012. [http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/key\\_data/october-2011.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/key_data/october-2011.pdf)

<sup>xliii</sup> CSFP also serves pregnant and breastfeeding women; other new mothers up to one year postpartum; infants; and children up to age six living at or below 185 percent of poverty (about \$34,281 for a family of three in 2011). The food assistance needs of this vulnerable population are increasingly met by the Special

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Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Eligible people may not participate in both WIC and CSFP at the same time.

<sup>xliv</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nutrition Assistance Programs Key Data Release – November Release (September 2011 data). [http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/key\\_data/september-2011.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/key_data/september-2011.pdf)

<sup>xlv</sup> Oza-Frank R., Norton A, Scarpitti H, Wapner A, Conrey E (2011 March). A Report of the Body Mass Index of Ohio's Third Graders: 2009-10. Ohio Department of Health, Columbus OH.

<sup>xlvi</sup> Sugerman et al, *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, 43(4S2): S96, 2011. Foster et al, *Pediatrics*, 121(4), e794, 2008.

Figure 1. Rhoda Cohen, J. Mabli, F. Potter, Z. Zhao, *Hunger in America 2010*, Feeding America, February 2010.

Figure 2. Federal Spending on TEFAP Food and Funds: FY2009-FY2012. Feeding America analysis of USDA Data, Federal Fiscal Year 2009-2012.

Figure 3. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Analysis of Congressional Budget Office January 2012 outlay and economic forecast data, February 2012. <http://www.cbpp.org/files/7-23-10fa.pdf>.