



Hunger in America 2009 **A Community Study**

The *Hunger in America* Study

Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest) is about to embark on its fifth *Hunger in America* study, which will be released in November 2009. It is considered to be the most comprehensive investigation of its kind in the United States. Since 1992 *Hunger in America* has provided information from Feeding America agencies across the nation such as:

- Demographic profiles of food aid clients
- Resource needs of pantries and soup kitchens

Collection of Information

This information is collected by trained volunteers who perform anonymous, randomly selected interviews with member agencies and clients over a 2-3 month period. Nearly 10,000 interviews were collected for the national 2006 study. Second Harvest plans to contribute 300 interviews to *Hunger in America 2009*.

***Hunger in America* Relevance**

The local study shows us who is hungry in our community and why. Second Harvest can compare local results with information from four previous studies to better understand the unique challenges of our area and how they change over time. By analyzing *Hunger in America* data we can make recommendations about:

- Needs for outreach with food stamps, free/reduced lunch, other government programs
- Kinds of malnutrition and related problems to target
 - Obesity
 - Nutritional deficiencies
 - Diabetes
- How to update or create new Second Harvest programs
- What direction to look for funding
- How much and what kind of food is needed
- How to improve food bank infrastructure
- What to advocate for hunger policy reform

Hunger in America will not only benefit Second Harvest and its member agencies, but will also provide a unique community profile for employers as well. Anyone who hires seasonal workers, provides health clinic options, or is otherwise likely to interact with workers at risk of hunger will gain important perspective from this study. Data from *Hunger in America* can be used to optimize community food and health aid programs.

What Can You Do?

Hunger in America is critical for Second Harvest to know how to best allocate its existing resources and to rally the community around our most pressing challenges. Second Harvest needs financial support to make sure we can get as much relevant local information into *Hunger in America 2009* as possible. If your organization benefits from this study, or if you have an interest in evidence-based programming and policy, please consider making a donation.