

ANTI-HUNGER PLAYBOOK

53rd Arizona State Legislature

A LEGISLATOR'S GUIDE TO ADDRESSING HUNGER

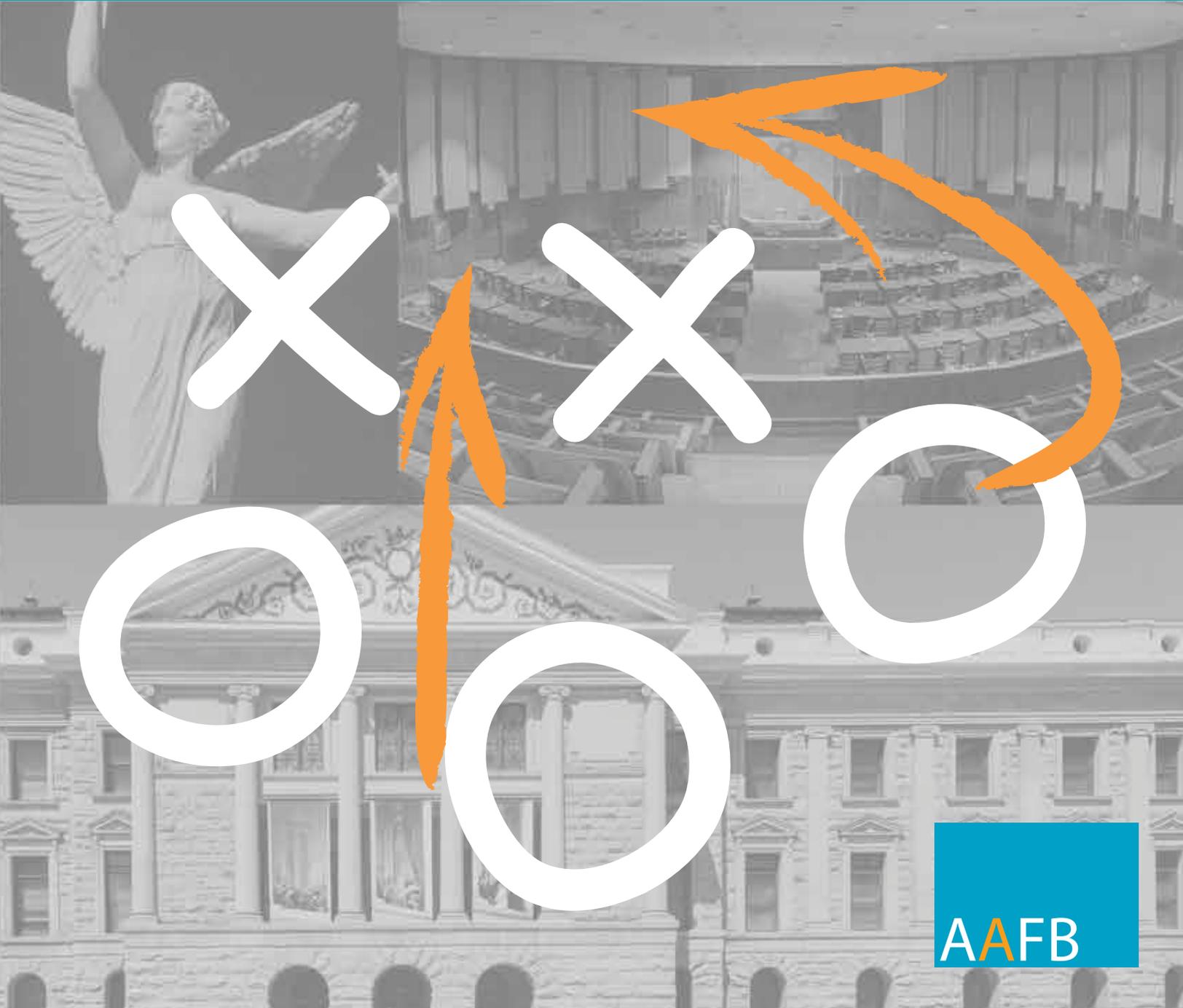


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A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Congratulations on your election to the 53rd Arizona State Legislature!

Alleviating hunger is no small challenge. Food banks play a critical role, but we can't do it alone. Fighting hunger is not only about providing emergency food to people in need — it also means taking action to address the root causes of hunger.

State legislators like you play **A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ADDRESSING HUNGER IN OUR STATE**. As a legislator, you can use your influence to raise awareness about the issue; pass legislation that strengthens programs and increases efficiency; and work with state agencies to ensure that effective policies are in place. This playbook gives you the facts about hunger in Arizona and outlines three policies — all with bipartisan support — that you can promote this session to alleviate hunger in our state.

We look forward to becoming a resource for you to learn more about hunger and working with you to ensure all Arizonans can lead healthy, hunger-free lives.

Sincerely,

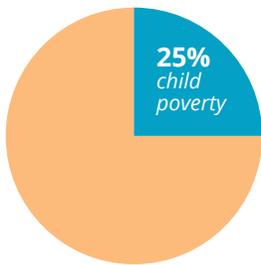


Angie Rodgers
President and CEO
Association of Arizona Food Banks

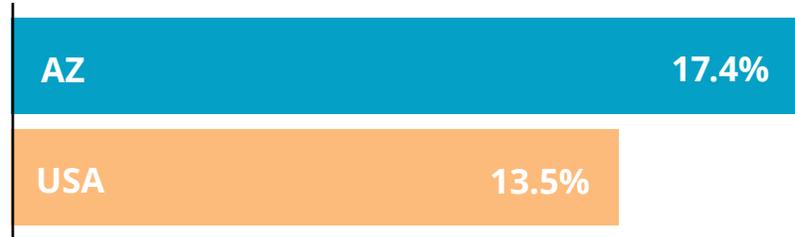
1.1 Million Arizonans Live in Poverty⁰¹

Yuma, Arizona has the **HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE COUNTRY** at 24 percent.⁰²

1 in 4 kids in Arizona live in poverty.⁰³



Arizona's poverty rate is far higher than the national average. The poverty rate in Arizona remains higher than before the Great Recession.⁰⁴

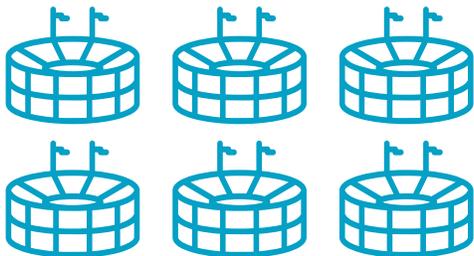


Over 1 Million Arizonans Are at Risk of Going Hungry⁰⁵

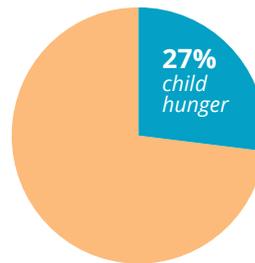
Arizona ranks **THIRD FOR WORST CHILD FOOD INSECURITY RATE** in the country.⁰⁶

434,000 kids in Arizona face hunger.⁰⁷

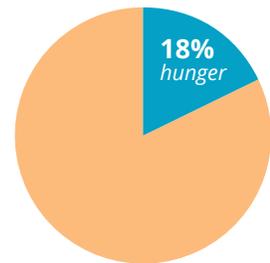
That's enough to fill the University of Phoenix Stadium six times.



1 in 4 kids in Arizona are food insecure.⁰⁸



1 in 5 Arizonans are food insecure.⁰⁹



HOW WE ADDRESS HUNGER

About the Association of Arizona Food Banks (AAFB)

Because healthy people and communities prosper and flourish, we promote public awareness, build coalitions and partnerships, engage in advocacy to influence public policy, and support food banks to achieve a hunger-free Arizona.



WORKING WITH FOOD BANKS

Collaborating with our five member food banks and 1,200 partner agencies, shelters, and schools, ***we delivered 150 million pounds of food*** to hungry Arizonans across the state last year.



ADDRESSING CHILD HUNGER

We partner with districts, schools, and community organizations statewide to help ***ensure kids get proper nutrition through school*** breakfast, lunch, and summer meals programs.



HUNGER HOTLINE

Our 1-800 hunger hotline and online directory ***help thousands of Arizonans find a food bank near them*** and access critical nutrition programs.



ADVOCATING FOR THE HUNGRY

We work with elected officials at the state and federal level to ***educate on policy issues that affect hunger and offer policy solutions*** that help create a healthy, hunger-free Arizona.

Higher Healthcare Costs for Public and Private Insurers

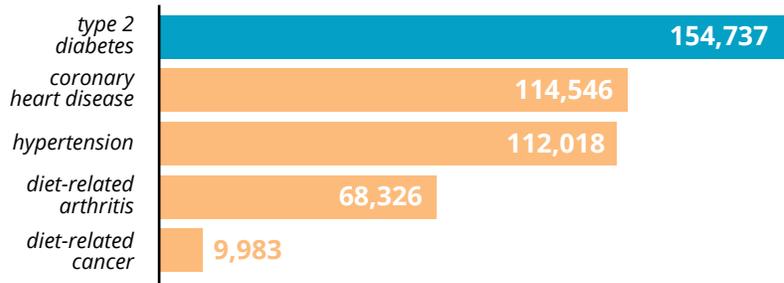
Food insecurity and obesity often occur in the same person at the same time. Those who don't have enough to eat rely on inexpensive, unhealthy food to get by. Diet-related diseases are projected to lead to roughly **\$13.6 BILLION IN HIGHER COSTS** in Arizona by 2030.¹⁰

Nearly 2 in 3 Arizonans are overweight or obese.¹¹



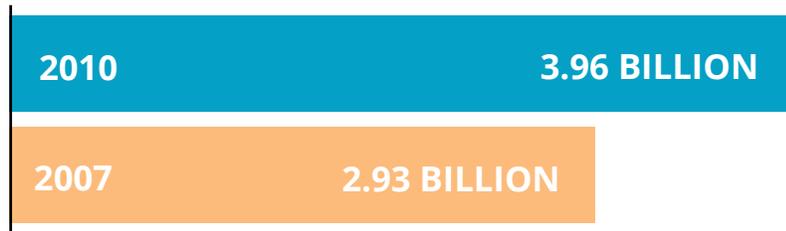
Nearly 500,000 Arizonans will face diet-related illness by 2030

Type 2 Diabetes will be the most common diet-related illness.¹²



The Economic Cost of Hunger in Arizona Increased by \$1 Billion from 2007-2010¹³

This calculation includes lost economic productivity, higher education expenses due to the rising costs of poor education outcomes, and the cost of charity to provide emergency relief to families.



SNAP: BY THE NUMBERS

What is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)?

SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) is the country's most important anti-hunger program. Like unemployment insurance, it was created to give a helping hand to families while they get back on their feet.

\$204,379,437

pumped into the Arizona economy every month through SNAP spending.¹⁴

100%

of SNAP benefits are **funded by the federal government**.¹⁵

1 million

Arizonans use SNAP to help keep food on the table every month.¹⁶

63%

of SNAP beneficiaries in Arizona are **kids, seniors, or adults with disabilities**.¹⁷

\$120.35

Average **monthly SNAP benefit per person** in Arizona.¹⁸

3 months

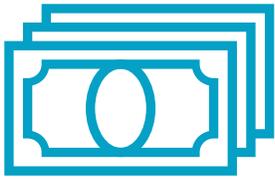
The **maximum amount of time most non-working adults without dependents can receive SNAP benefits** in a three-year period.¹⁹

220,000

The number of Arizonans SNAP **lifted out of poverty** in 2014.²⁰

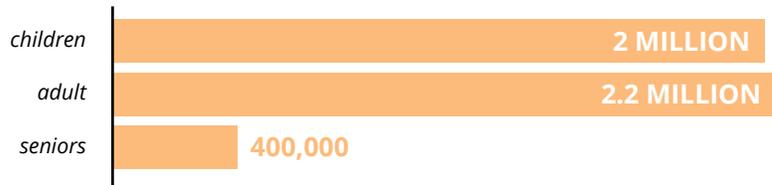
SNAP Stimulates the Arizona Economy

The program lifts hundreds of thousands of Arizonans out of poverty.



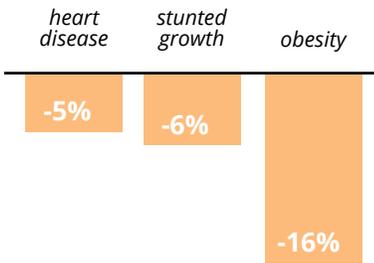
SNAP pumps \$2.4 billion into the Arizona economy annually.²¹

SNAP lifted 220,000 Arizonans out of poverty last year. It lifted 4.6 million people out of poverty nationwide.²²



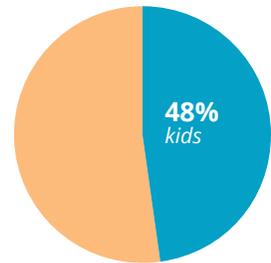
SNAP Helps Kids Over the Long Term²³

SNAP promotes better health and learning for kids. Kids receiving SNAP are less likely to develop disease than similar kids without access to SNAP.



Kids receiving SNAP are also **18% more likely to graduate from high school** than similar kids without access to SNAP.

1 in 2 Arizona SNAP recipients are kids.²⁴



SNAP Helps Families Get Back to Work²⁵

Nearly **9 IN 10 SNAP FAMILIES WITH KIDS ARE WORKING WITHIN A YEAR** of receiving SNAP benefits.



What is the Arizona Finger Imaging Program (AFIP)?

State law requires that every adult applicant, adult recipient, and minor parent recipient of SNAP benefits be finger imaged to prevent multiple enrollments.

How much does AFIP cost?

The total cost to administer AFIP is about \$2 million per year. Of these, \$856,200 are General Fund dollars. This results in \$85,620 expenditure for every duplicate application that the finger imaging program found.²⁶

How many multiple enrollments does AFIP identify per year?

In FY 2015, the finger imaging requirement identified only seven duplicate applications in over 1.1 million total applications, or 0.001% of all applications.²⁷

Are there alternatives to AFIP?

Yes! DES systems have been upgraded to communicate with federal databases. These databases provide Arizona access to security systems similar to AFIP to help maintain integrity. In fact, these federal systems are superior because they use real time data and Arizona is able to check for simultaneous enrollment in other states, which is currently not possible with AFIP. All of this is provided at no cost to the state. Thus, Arizona will still be able to protect against multiple SNAP enrollments but at no additional cost.²⁶

Do other states use similar programs?

Though many states previously employed similar programs, Arizona is now the only state to use finger imaging as a condition of SNAP benefit issuance.²⁷

What is the SNAP Drug Felon Ban?

In 1996, Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act which created a federal lifetime ban on benefits from SNAP for individuals convicted of drug-related felonies. State legislatures have the option to modify the terms of this ban or to opt out of the provision altogether.

Does the SNAP drug felon ban save Arizona money?

No. SNAP benefits are federally funded, so allowing an individual with drug convictions to receive them does not burden state budgets, nor does it produce state savings. In fact, the drug felon ban inhibits economic growth as it decreases the amount of money that will be spent in local grocery stores and other community businesses. In FY 2015, Arizona forewent \$1.7 million in economic activity every month due to the drug felon ban. (*\$1.7 million represents the monthly foregone SNAP benefits of the 3,758 individuals whose cases were closed in FY 2015 due to the felony drug ban multiplied by 1.73, the economic impact of every SNAP dollar.*)

Does the SNAP drug felon ban deter crime?

There is no evidence to suggest that the drug felon ban deters crime. In fact, the ban increases the chances of recidivism. Multiple studies show that felons re-entering society often face hurdles to employment and experience food insecurity. Released felons who experience food insecurity are five times more likely to use heroin than released felons who aren't food insecure, thus making Arizona communities less safe.²⁸

How many other states have drug felon bans?

In 1996, all 50 states employed lifetime bans on benefits from SNAP for individuals convicted of drug-related felonies. In recent years, many states have relaxed or ended the ban, acknowledging that easier access to food decreases recidivism and helps stimulate the economy. Today Arizona is only one of nine states that still bans drug felons from accessing SNAP benefits.

Why is healthy food an important issue for Arizona?

Healthy food is an economic and public health issue. Ensuring a robust economy and a productive citizenry requires access to healthy, nutritious food. However, in Arizona, nearly three in every four adults are not getting the daily recommended amount of fruits and vegetables. Food banks care deeply about this issue because the people we serve disproportionately lack access to healthy food and are at risk of developing diet-related diseases. Lawmakers who care about the state's fiscal health should also care about this issue as reports estimate that the increasing number of Arizonans at risk for obesity-related diseases will lead to roughly \$13.6 billion in higher healthcare costs in Arizona by 2030.²⁹

What are food banks already doing to get healthy food to people in need?

In the last year, the statewide emergency food bank network focused getting healthier food to the families we serve. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, food banks and agencies received 30 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, an increase of 7 million pounds from the previous year. We're proud of this work, but we need to do more.

How would this funding help get healthy food to people in need?

Increasing the volume of produce we distribute comes with a need for more resources. We need more resources to comply with federal food safety regulations. A one-time \$1 million investment would help the emergency food relief network acquire capital that would allow us to distribute more and healthier food. While these additional funds would by no means end hunger in Arizona, they would allow us to invest in climate-controlled trailers to safely transport produce; food banks and food pantries would be able to acquire refrigerator and freezer space to safely store produce. It would help with purchasing forklifts and pallet jacks to warehouse produce and prepare it for distribution. By investing in these resources, the food relief network in Arizona would be increasing our capacity to serve Arizona families healthier food for years.

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