

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY

I am 68 years old. After raising my children, I raised two grandchildren and now I have adopted my six-year old great-grandson. We get \$6 in SNAP each month. I guess my income is too high.



Virginia Soto
Phoenix, Arizona

Our household income is \$1300 each month. That's \$900 for my social security benefit and \$400 for my grandson's social security, which he collects because his father is deceased. Also, because my grandson is adopted, he receives money each month through a state college savings program. We do not touch any of the money he receives for college.

I come to the Devonshire Senior Center every day for lunch. I am supposed to contribute \$2.50 each day for the meal, but I just can't afford it right now. My grandson has lunch at school through the freemeal program. This really helps us cut down on food costs.

We live in Central Phoenix, and I drive over to St. Mary's Food Bank once a month for a food box. I am working on completing the paperwork so that I can also receive a second food box just for the elderly from St. Mary's Food Bank.

We eat a lot of beans and rice at home, but we are doing well.