

## **Quick Facts About Hunger and Poverty in This State**

- One in 6 households struggles to put food on the table, compared to 1 in 7 nationwide.
- 48.2 percent of households have at least one wage earner but still need Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) assistance (formerly known as food stamps) to live.
- More than 910,175 people live in poverty.
- 180,976 are employed but still living in poverty.

## **How We Can End Hunger and Poverty**

Ending hunger and poverty in this state and in our country requires political will. The federal government should have comprehensive policies that meet the needs of people who are hungry and poor and that provide opportunities to move from hunger and poverty to financial stability. To end hunger, we need our elected officials to:

- Support low-income wage earners. A livable minimum wage, tax credits, and strong benefits can put families in the position to earn more, save more, and build assets for the future.
- Support strong foundations for families and individuals. Ensuring that lowincome families have access to quality education, affordable housing, health care, and asset and credit-building opportunities will better prepare families for economic stability.
- Support a fair and equitable criminal justice system. Mass incarceration
  perpetuates hunger and poverty. Sentencing reform and support for individuals
  returning home from incarceration through jobs, affordable housing, and
  programs like TANF and SNAP will lower recidivism and hunger and poverty.
- Support a strong safety net. Programs like SNAP and WIC must be available to temporarily help families dealing with a job loss or crisis. Programs for longerterm support for people unable to earn sufficient wages to support their families should also be available.

Source: 2014 Hunger Report: Ending Hunger in America

## **Ending Hunger is Important to Voters**

A recent Bread for the World poll showed that:

- 2 in 3 American voters believe ending hunger should be one of the top priorities of government.
- 9 in 10 Americans say we have a responsibility to end hunger, with half saying God explicitly calls us to support programs to end hunger.

In the 2016 elections, ask the candidates: If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in the U.S. and worldwide?







are almost 3 times more likely to live in poverty than whites.

Sources of figures: USDA ERS Household Food Security in the United States in 2014, Table 4; 2014 American Community Survey (U.S. Census) data, Table S2201