

Title: End Childhood Hunger in Montana

Presenter: Mary Pittaway, MA, RD Missoula City-County Health Department

Organizations Involved: A coalition of Montana state and local, private and public sectors organizations and agencies formed to address childhood hunger including Montana Steering Committee to End Childhood Hunger; Department of Public Health and Human Services; Office of Public Instruction, Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN); Montana Food Security Council; Montana Dietetic Association Public-Policy Committee, Montana No Kid Hungry- Share our Strength

People involved in Coalition Leadership:

1. Minkie Medora, MS, RD Chair of Food Security Council
2. Kate Bradford Devino, MA Chief Policy Officer MFBN
3. Chris Emerson, RD Montana Office of Public Instruction

Background: Over 89,000 Montana children are at risk of hunger and lack access to nutritious foods. Emergency feeding services saw a 43% increase in families with children seeking assistance, from 2009-2010. Montana SNAP, formerly Food Stamps, served 125,957 in 5/11, up 56% from 5/08 and up 8% from 5/10.

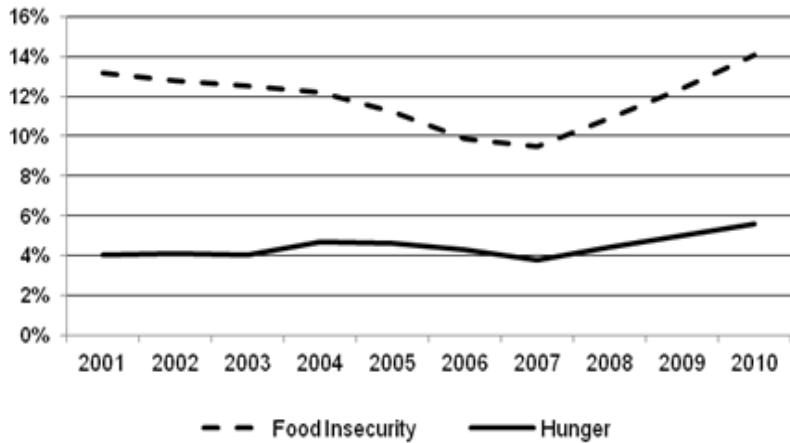
Project Goal: To eliminate childhood hunger in Montana by 2022

Methods:

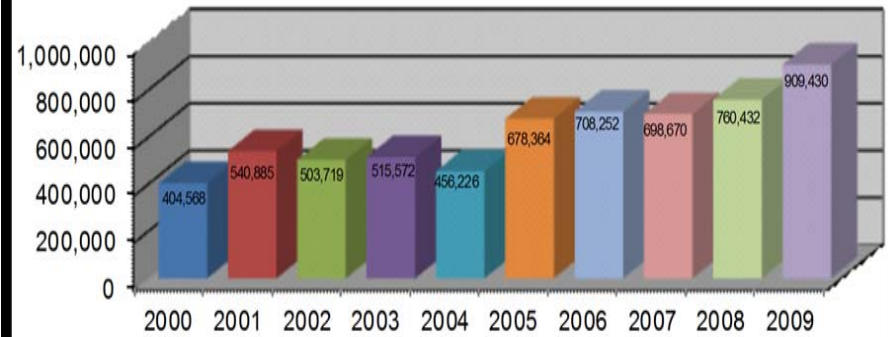
1. 54 public and private Montana stakeholders attended the first Montana Summit to End Childhood Hunger in 9/10.
2. Priorities and action commitments were agreed on.
3. A steering committee distilled recommendations culminating with the **10 Steps to End Childhood Hunger in Montana**. Each step includes benchmarks for the first five years; after which goals will be reassessed and adjusted for the second phase.
4. The MT Legislature adopted HJR 8: Childhood Hunger *Study Plan* 10/19/11 to
 - a. study the degree to which Montana children lack access to adequate nutritious food and
 - b. make recommendations on ways to alleviate childhood hunger and improve access to nutritious foods for children throughout Montana,
5. Funding was obtained from Share Our Strength to staff a No Kid Hungry Program Manager at the DPHHS directors office. The position has been filled with an RD to help implement some of the 10 steps in Food and Nutrition programs.
6. The Steering committee is pursuing funding for another staff position to work on some of the other 10-Steps through community engagement.

Discussion: Montana's problem are being clarified, quantified; a plan created, work assigned. The work to address food insecurity is off to a strong start.

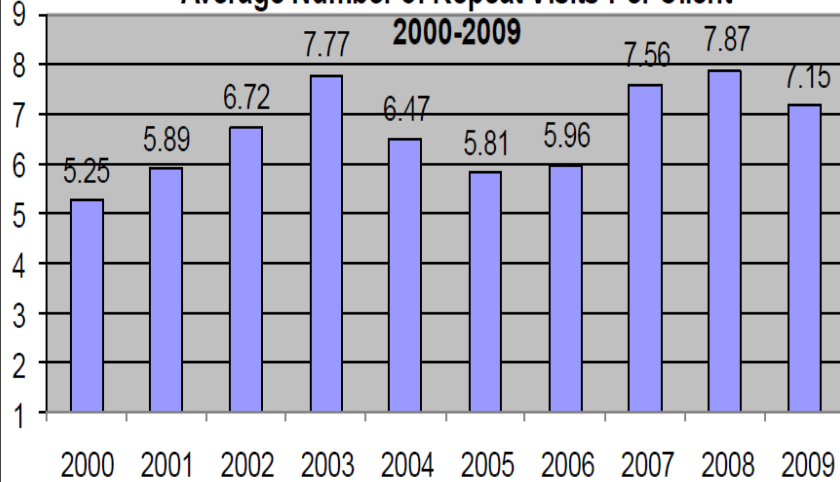
Montana Household Food Insecurity and Hunger Trends



10-Year Comparison of Total Client Visits 2000-2009



Average Number of Repeat Visits Per Client 2000-2009



Pounds of Food Distributed Through Montana's Emergency Food System 2005-2009



10 Steps to Ending Childhood Hunger in Montana

STEP	GOALS	BASELINE	5-YEAR BENCHMARK	STEP	GOALS	BASELINE	5-YEAR BENCHMARK
1 Provide a nutrient-rich breakfast for all school children	Increase the number of School Breakfast programs	92% of schools with lunch programs offer breakfast	Increase to 96% (30 more schools)	6 Increase access for Montana families to healthy, affordable food	Set up community gardens in low-income neighborhoods	XX Montana communities offer community gardens	Establish gardens in 10 low-income neighborhoods
	Increase participation in existing breakfast programs	36% of free/reduced price (FRP) students in high-need schools eat school breakfast	Increase to 75%		Increase number of farmer's markets accepting EBT, WIC and Senior voucher programs	8 markets accept EBT, 9 accept WIC vouchers, and 13 accept Senior vouchers	Increase to 15 EBT, 20 WIC, 20 Senior
	Expand breakfast options such as universal free breakfast, breakfast in the classroom and grab-n-go programs.	XX schools offer universal free breakfast	50% of high-need schools offer expanded breakfast options.		Make healthy, affordable food accessible for low-income residents, including local food	Work with grocers to improve selection of fresh foods at grocery stores.	
			Make healthy, affordable food accessible to people living in food deserts		Study distance traveled to retail food stores. Work with state agencies and legislature to provide incentives to small rural stores to improve food quality and variety at affordable prices.		
2 Provide nutrient-rich meals for Montana children during out-of-school times	Provide meals through programs like Back Pack Program	10 schools offering Back Pack Program	Start Back Pack Program at 10 new schools	7 Ensure healthy diets for pregnant women and support breastfeeding for new mothers.	Promote and increase participation in local WIC programs	20,860 individuals participate	Increase to 22,000
	Support food programs through Boys & Girls Clubs	XX% of Boys & Girls Clubs offer supper	Increase number to XX%		Reduce barriers to participation	Provide community support, e.g. transportation, more flexible appointment times and the ability to change appointments	
3 Expand the reach of Summer Food Service Program in Montana	Increase the number of Summer Food Service Programs	184 sites operated in 2010	Increase to 200 sites		Work with community groups to promote breast feeding		
	Increase participation at existing sites	2010: 6,948 children and 422,687 meals served	15,000 children and 600,000 meals	Ensure that employers provide a private, sanitary and safe place for mothers to save breast milk after returning to work			
	Create incentives for children to participate by offering activities besides food	2010: Total of \$148,379 of AR-RA funds awarded to 34 sponsors for activity grants	Find alternate funding source, provide \$100,000 in grants to 50 sponsors	Provide community education for healthy food donations	Create list of high-demand healthy foods, disseminate to groups conducting regular food drives		
	Generate community effort to help transport children to summer food programs	2010: One community offered transportation to sites	Increase to 10 communities by involving public transportation, vans, etc.	Educate community about funding needs of local agencies	Press releases; support from local service organizations, media, schools, universities, etc.		
4 Support nutrient-rich snack and supper meals in Montana's afterschool programs and childcare centers	Increase the number of child care sites participating in Child and Adult Care Food Programs	XXX sites participating in CACFP	Increase by 10%	8 Improve adequacy and quality of food donations to Montana food pantries, banks, and shelters	Ensure adequate volunteers for food banks, especially those in rural areas or without paid staff	Mobilize community organizations and the media to inform public about needs. Seek assistance from seniors, working people, college students and others.	
	Encourage child care sites to provide supper to children who are there for 8 hours or longer	XXX sites offer supper	Increase by 10%		Work with Extension to provide nutrition education to food bank clients	15% of food banks clients get nutrition education	Quarterly cooking/nutrition demonstrations at area food banks
	Maximize nutritional quality of snacks and meals in all settings	Not enough staff have training on nutritional needs for children and food safety	Train 50% of staff on nutritional needs for children and food safety		Increase nutrition education in schools through school wellness policies and partnerships with local extension agents	50% of schools offering at least 1 hour/week nutrition education to all grade levels (K-12)	Increase by 10%
5 Guarantee that all eligible Montana families have access to public food programs	Maximize participation in SNAP, FDPIR, School Lunch, Afterschool Snack Program and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)	SNAP: 62% participation among income-eligible people FDPIR: School Lunch: 73% of FRP-qualifying students participate in lunch Afterschool Snack Program: 95 sponsors participate FFVP: 71 districts participate	SNAP: Increase to 75% FDPIR: Lunch: Increase to 85% Afterschool Snacks: Increase to 125 FFVP: Increase to 100	9 Offer nutrition education to Montana children and families on making smart food choices and active lifestyles	Provide education for parents and children in menu planning, food budgeting, cooking, nutrition and financial literacy	25% of SNAP recipients attend SNAP-Ed classes (?)	Increase by 10%. Provide information on available classes at all food pantries
	Generate community effort to increase knowledge and awareness of all programs	"Program of the Month" promotions across all service organizations. Local media highlight hunger issues and provide program information. Peer-to-peer outreach.			Promote fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, high fiber foods and physical activity	XX schools have qualified for Healthier US School Challenge awards	Increase to XX schools
	Generate community assistance in providing transportation to program offices	Encourage public transportation to make stops at service organizations. Organize community-based carpools/volunteer drivers to WIC office, food bank, etc.		10 Improve the economic security of Montana's working families	Increase access to financial literacy training through the workplace or other settings	Review financial literacy programs to determine level of education provided and unmet needs in the state	Increase access to financial literacy training by 25%
			Work with the state to increase TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) benefits; increase participation where applicable		\$424 average monthly benefit per case	Increase to \$500 per month	