Hunger Action Month: Kentucky Press Association
WHO WE ARE

Feeding Kentucky is the largest charitable response to hunger in the state of Kentucky. Our mission is to feed Kentuckians today and end hunger tomorrow. We do this by supporting Kentucky’s seven food banks in the fight against hunger through legislative advocacy, innovative programming, and public and private partnerships.

OUR MEMBERS

Feeding Kentucky • PO Box 5522 • Frankfort KY 40602 • 502-699-2656 • www.feedingky.org
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Who could have imagined how different September 2021 would be from September 2020? As we navigate the recovery from COVID-19, it is more urgent than ever to take action against hunger in Kentucky.

September is Hunger Action Month and as Kentucky’s largest charitable organization dedicated to ending hunger, we are providing this specially designed packet for your information and utilization.

We could not have been more pleased with the impact of our Hunger Action Month partnership last year. We are grateful for our news media partners who help bring attention to hunger in Kentucky.

Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.

Thank you for helping get the word out about hunger and how we can work together to solve it!

Sincerely,

Katrina Thompson
Feeding Kentucky, Executive Director
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Hunger in Kentucky

- 1 in 7 Kentuckians are food insecure,
- Food insecurity exists in every Kentucky county, ranging from 7.4% in Oldham County to 27.5% in Harlan County.
- Six Kentucky counties are included in the list of 25 US counties with the highest overall food insecurity rates: Harlan, Bell, Magoffin, Breathitt, Clay and Wolfe.

Child Hunger

- 1 in 5 Kentucky kids are food insecure.
- Childhood food insecurity is linked to developmental delays, poor academic performance and behavioral problems, and increased risk of obesity.
- Only 1 in 11 kids who receive free and reduced meals eat summer meals.

Senior Hunger

- Kentucky is #1 in food insecurity among adults aged 50-59.
- A significant number of Kentucky grandparents are raising grandchildren. These seniors are more likely to be food insecure than other seniors.
FEEDING KENTUCKY ASKS KENTUCKIANS TO TAKE ACTION TO END HUNGER

[Frankfort, KY] – Aug. 25, 2021 – This September, Feeding Kentucky, together with the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks, will mobilize across all 50 states in an effort to bring an end to hunger. Hunger Action Month is designed to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of the number of people who are food-insecure, meaning they lack consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle.

Kentucky has the ninth highest rate in the nation of people struggling to put food on the table. In Kentucky, almost 700,000 people struggle with hunger and may not know where they will find their next meal. That number includes one in every five kids who may not have enough to eat.

After nearly ten years, food insecurity levels for most communities across the country, including Kentucky, had reached their lowest levels in 2018, according to Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap study. However, analysis from Feeding America’s The Impact of the Coronavirus on Local Food Insecurity shows that progress made to food insecurity in the past decade will likely be wiped out as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

September marks the fourteenth year the Feeding America network of food banks has organized this annual call to action and eleventh year Feeding Kentucky has participated in the Hunger Action Month movement. This year’s campaign theme: food shouldn’t be an impossible choice.

“Everyday, Kentucky families have to make the impossible choice between food and other necessities, like medicine and rent,” said Karena Cash, Advocacy Coordinator for Feeding Kentucky. “We need the support of our communities now more than ever to help our neighbors in need. With every action, we get one step closer to ensuring food isn’t an impossible choice.”

Hunger Action Day®, the third Friday in September, is a day where efforts across the country are focused for greater impact. This year, on September 17th, Feeding Kentucky is seeking 700 actions from the public – a donation, a volunteer shift, a social media post – that will help end hunger, one helping at a time.

The global health pandemic has meant a cancellation of many of the activities the Feeding Kentucky network had planned in honor of Hunger Action Month. However, there are still ways to get involved. For example:

- Freestore Foodbank will host its 27th annual Rubber Duck Regatta virtually on Sunday, September 5th. Each duck purchased will help provide 15 meals to the community—that’s something to quack about! Buy a Duck and Feed a Child today. Learn more at RubberDuckRegatta.org.

To learn more about Feeding Kentucky and other ways you can get involved for Hunger Action Month in Kentucky, please visit FeedingKY.org or HungerActionMonth.org.
OP-ED

Hunger is a reality for nearly 700,000 Kentuckians, including 1 in 5 children. They live in every single county and legislative district in the Bluegrass state.

In response, last year the Feeding Kentucky network distributed the equivalent of 79 million meals through a network of seven food banks and over 800 charitable feeding agencies such as pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. We feed 50,000 Kentuckians each week. Food banks would not exist without support from individual donors, the business community, civic groups and elected officials.

Hunger is a serious problem in Kentucky. But it doesn’t have to be. If we work together as a Commonwealth, we can end hunger one action at a time. With every action, we get one step closer to ensuring food isn’t an impossible choice.

That’s why Feeding Kentucky and Feeding America are recognizing Hunger Action Month, which takes place each September. Hunger Action Month is a nationwide campaign to mobilize the public to take action on the issue of hunger. The campaign brings greater attention to hunger in the U.S. and promotes ways for people everywhere to get involved in the movement to fight it.

You can help mobilize your community and get involved by taking any or all of the following actions:

- Volunteer at your local food pantry or regional food bank.
- Donate food or funds to your local food pantry and be part of the hunger-relief solution.
- Invite your state and federal legislators to visit your local food bank. Visits from elected officials shine a spotlight on the role food banks play in solving hunger.
- Take action online: like and follow Feeding Kentucky, your regional food bank, and your local food pantry on social media. Post about actions you are taking to fight hunger.

We can all do our part to help end hunger. September 17th is Hunger Action Day. Feeding Kentucky is seeking 700 actions – a donation, a volunteer shift, a social media post – to ensure food isn’t an impossible choice. Every action counts, so visit HungerActionMonth.org to learn how you can get started.

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SOURCES


