

CREATING A HUNGER FREE NORTH DAKOTA



2009-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN SNAPSHOT

One in 12 North Dakotans - 40% of whom are children, seek emergency food assistance each year from the charitable feeding network. Because of this, hunger-relief advocates across North Dakota came together and developed a long range plan that outlines strategies to fill gaps in service, meet increasing demand, and address challenges of connecting hungry people with the necessary food they need to feed themselves and their families.

This plan was developed as a result of six key findings, and dozens of opportunities identified to enhance the existing hunger-relief system in North Dakota that emerged from an unprecedented 2008 study of the charitable feeding network, and the clients it serves. A committed group of individuals, charitable feeding providers and state agencies answered the call to action and formed the state's first ever Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Coalition to tackle goals in four key areas:


1. Recover surplus food that might otherwise go to waste to help feed North Dakota's hungry
2. Distribute more food into unserved or under-served areas of the state
3. Build capacity of pantry, soup kitchen and shelter providers to accept and distribute more food
4. Ensure that those who don't have enough to eat can readily access the food

This long-range plan aims to meet our vision of a hunger free North Dakota which ensures individuals seeking food assistance in North Dakota will be aware of available resources; have reasonable access to services; receive an adequate amount of food; and gain support through a client friendly experience.

The following programs and services are examples of activities currently underway by Coalition members.

■ *In order to pump more food product into the hunger-relief system, the Great Plains Food Bank is partnering with big-box retailers (i.e. Walmart, Target and Sam's Club) to recover surplus grocery product that is now part of their product mix. In addition, the Food Bank launched the Bismarck-Mandan Food Recovery Program which collects prepared, perishable and frozen food that might otherwise go to waste from grocery stores, hospitals, wholesalers and restaurants. This food is then delivered directly to shelters, soup kitchens and food pantries serving the hungry and homeless. This program is scheduled to roll out in Minot early 2010.*

■ *To extend food distribution and support to under-served counties where food assistance is needed most, the Department of Public Instruction and the Great Plains Food Bank are preparing 40 pound prepackaged food baskets (a 10 day supply of food), and through a Mobile Food Pantry are delivering these boxes to North Dakota communities that don't have, or can't support a traditional food pantry.*



■ *To lessen the strain and build capacity of the charitable feeding network, while supporting it's ability to accept and distribute more food,* the Great Plains Food Bank is creating several training modules (food safety, Food Bank orientation and grant writing) which will be introduced at regional meetings of providers set to begin in November supported in part by USDA Rural Development. In addition, through a corporate partnership, the Food Bank has distributed more than \$10,000 worth of refrigerators and freezers to food pantries and soup kitchens - providing the infrastructure needed to safely store, handle and distribute food to people in need.

■ *To raise awareness of, and increase access to, federal nutrition programs for those seeking help at charitable feeding programs,* the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is providing start up funding to the Great Plains Food Bank to distribute SNAP information to clients at 110 charitable feeding programs across the state. Department funding will also be used to develop a SNAP outreach tool kit so that charitable feeding programs can assist clients in accessing SNAP services. This may include helping with applications, answering questions and providing other support.

■ *In order to continue building collaborative and mutually supportive partnerships between governmental programs and nonprofit agencies at all levels (local, state and federal) of the food assistance system,* Healthy North Dakota is committed to providing technical support and guidance to ensure plan goals are met, and further developed, by the newly formed Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Coalition.

Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Coalition

To view the detailed 2009-2019 Strategic Plan go to:
<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/foodstamps.html>

To learn more about the work of the Coalition contact:

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The following partners support the actions outlined in the 2009-2019 strategic plan to create a hunger free North Dakota:

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