



**D.C. Hunger Solutions**

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

# Serving Seniors

## Current Efforts in the District of Columbia

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**Beverley R. Wheeler, Ed.D.**

**Director**

**D.C. Hunger Solutions**

# D.C. Hunger Solutions Mission

- Improve public policies to end hunger, reduce poverty, promote nutrition and increase the availability of healthy, affordable food in low-income areas
- Maximize participation in all federal nutrition programs
- Educate the public about both the stark reality of hunger's existence in the midst of plenty and the real opportunities for effective solutions



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# A Few D.C. Hunger Facts

- 1 in 7 households face a constant struggle against hunger
- DC has the highest rate of food hardship for households with children in the nation, at 26.6%.
- 1 in 4 families experience times when they do not have enough money to buy food that their family needs.
- DC also has a high rate of child poverty—the US child poverty rate is 21% compared to 26% in DC.
- 50% of low-wage earners eligible for food stamps currently receive them
- DC is #1 in serving free summer meals
- DC is #3 in serving breakfast in the classroom



# D.C. Senior Statistics

There are approximately 105,000 seniors (60+) in the District of Columbia.

- 10.4% of seniors experienced food insecurity\*
- 14,200 seniors received SNAP \*
- 13,500 SNAP households had at least one senior\*
- Only 60% of seniors eligible for food stamps receive them
- 15,094 people age 60+ live in poverty
- 14.8% of people age 65 and older are receiving SNAP in D.C.

\* (2014-2016)



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# Activities in 2017

- Reached close to 2000 seniors in outreach activities
- Screened at least 400 seniors for SNAP eligibility
- Provided 150 seniors with application assistance
- Trained at least 15 senior service providers on how to assist with SNAP applications to their clients
- Trained 40 volunteers to assist in outreach and application assistance to seniors
- Participated in a national conference to close the senior SNAP gap



# Key Senior Advocacy Efforts- 2018

- Implementation of Elderly Simplified Application (ESAP)
- Promotion of more interagency collaboration for senior services
- Education of advocacy partners on strategic political (non-partisan) action



# Strategies and Goals to Address Senior Hunger in 2018

- Enhance outreach efforts to senior populations
- Increase training to senior serving social service agencies
- Schedule application assistance days at senior housing sites; congregate meal sites; senior centers; wellness centers; and special senior programs
- Identify and enlist the assistance of Senior Champions
- Continue leadership roles with senior advocacy coalitions
- Improve collaboration with advocacy partners
- Work to expand/improve participation in federal and local nutrition programs: SNAP, CACFP, CSFP, SFMNP, Home Delivered Meals, Congregate Meal Program
- Continue to make sure seniors have convenient access to reasonably priced healthy food
- Bring technology to the effort



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# Thank you!

Thank you for  
the opportunity  
to be with you today.



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