FACTS ABOUT
HUNGER AND FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA

Hunger in the United States:

- Food insecurity is present in every county in America; food Insecurity exists when individuals' access to enough food is limited by a lack of money and other resources.
- An estimated **49 million** Americans, or **16.1%**, are food insecure, while nearly **100 billion** pounds of food go to waste in our country every year.
- Over **16 million** children live in food insecure households.
- **21%** of rural households with children are food insecure, over **1 million** households.
- **74%** of all Feeding America client households have annual household incomes at or beneath the poverty line.
- **65%** of households with seniors served by Feeding America have to choose between buying food and paying for utilities or medical care.

Hunger in South Dakota:

- **14.6%** of individuals live at or below the poverty line.
- **One out of every 8** individuals in South Dakota is food insecure.
- The percentage is significantly higher for children under the age of 18 – **one in every 5** children is at risk of going hungry.
- **Three** counties in South Dakota are the poorest in the United States. A total of **four** South Dakota counties are in the top ten United States counties with the highest poverty rates.
- South Dakota has **8** of the nation's 30 poorest counties.
- Nearly **40%** of the state's school-aged children qualify for free and reduced meals.
- **19.2%** of its citizens 50 and older live below the poverty line.

Impact of Feeding South Dakota:

- Serves all **66** counties in South Dakota.
- Provides food for an estimated **190,000** people every year.
- Nearly **40%** of those served by Feeding South Dakota are considered to be a working poor family.
- Throughout the state, pantries, on-site feeding programs and shelters served by Feeding South Dakota report that the average monthly income is **$970** per household.
- Almost half of the individuals served by Feeding South Dakota are children and infants.
- Distributed **12.5 million** pounds of food to individuals in need, providing **10.4 million** meals to hungry individuals across South Dakota.
- In order to meet the hunger gap across South Dakota, Feeding South Dakota needs to provide an additional **16 million** meals.
- The value of donated food annually to Feeding South Dakota is over **$18.5 million**.
- Maintains a network of **350** partnering agencies statewide.
- More than **77%** of the food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters served by Feeding South Dakota report that if the food banks were eliminated, it would have significant or devastating effects on their programs.

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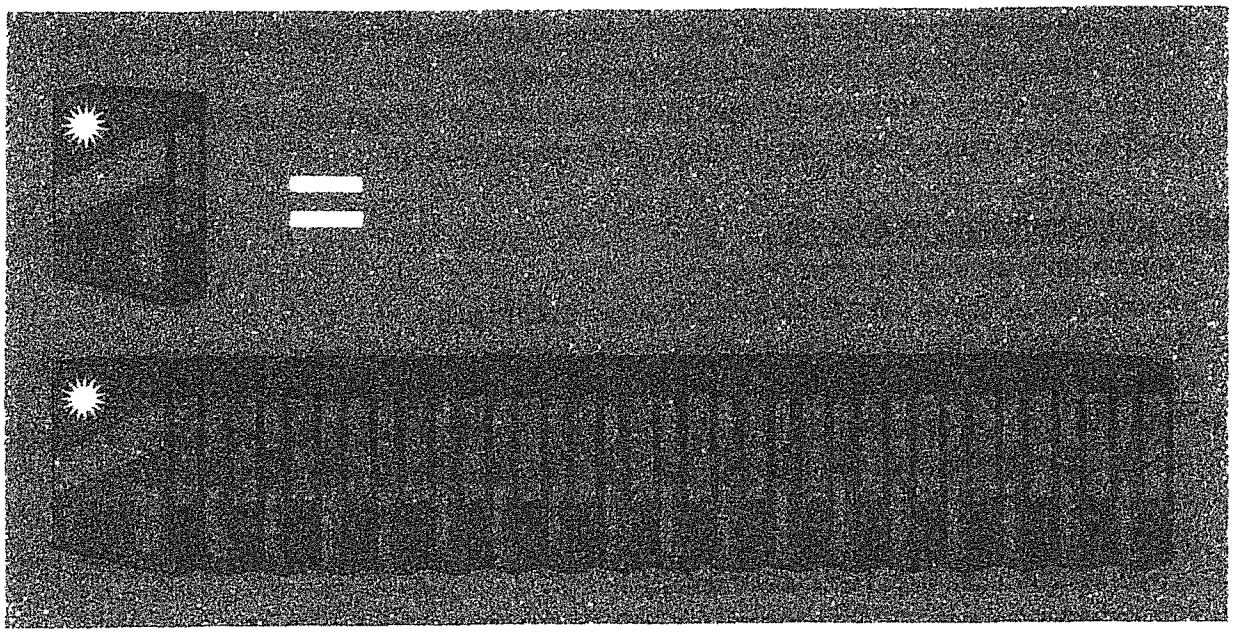
- Feeding South Dakota provided the largest percentage of food to member agency feeding programs at **47.6 percent**. Thus, nearly half of all food distributed from these feeding programs came from Feeding South Dakota.
- More than **5,500** packages of food are distributed weekly to hungry children across the state through the BackPack Program.
- **1.7 million** Emergency meals are supplied by the Pantries.
- Combined, the Sioux Falls and Rapid City Pantries serve more than **90,000** people each year.
- More than **2,800** food boxes are supplied to hungry seniors monthly.
- The Mobile Food Pantries in Pierre and Rapid City provide more than **450,000** meals to **14,700** families.
- For every **$1** donated, Feeding South Dakota can provide **5** meals to individuals in need. Purchasing those same five meals would cost an individual more than **$10.00.**
- Below is an example of Feeding South Dakota's purchasing power. A donation of one box of cereal can provide one box of cereal to serve a family in need. A donation of the **$3.00** it cost to purchase that one box of cereal can provide **18** boxes of cereal to serve **18** families in need.



FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA

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