

Iowa Food Bank Association



**Contact:** Jordan Vernoy, State Director  
Iowa Food Bank Association  
(563) 449-2739  
[jvernoy@feedingamerica.org](mailto:jvernoy@feedingamerica.org)

## **Unprecedented New Study Paints a Detailed Portrait of Food Insecurity in Iowa**

*Over 382,000 Iowans are food insecure, or struggle against hunger*

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – April 6, 2011 – The Iowa Food Bank Association and Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, hold a press conference on today, April 6 at 2 p.m. at the Iowa State Capitol. The press conference will reveal a landmark study, Map the Meal Gap, which provides the first detailed look at the income and food budget needed by families struggling with hunger here in Iowa.

“The best way to help people facing hunger is to understand who is hungry and why they are hungry at the community level,” says Jordan Vernoy, State Director of the Iowa Food Bank Association. Map the Meal Gap provides us with a new understanding of who is struggling against hunger in Iowa, and I believe many will be surprised by the findings.”

Map the Meal Gap also provides critical information that has never been previously available – food insecurity rates for each county and congressional district. Previously, food insecurity data was only available at the state level in the USDA’s annual report. The study further analyzes each county’s food insecure population to determine income eligibility for federal nutrition assistance. The study reveals that 43 percent of Iowa’s food insecure population is ineligible for any nutrition assistance programs because they are above the threshold of 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

For complete information and a full set of data and methodology, visit [www.iowaFBA.org/mapthegap](http://www.iowaFBA.org/mapthegap).

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### **About the Iowa Food Bank Association**

The Iowa Food Bank Association is a collaborative effort of the eight food banks in Iowa that serve all of its 99 counties. The mission of the Iowa Food Bank Association is to coordinate efforts to alleviate hunger by supporting Feeding America food banks that serve Iowa. Association members include the Food Bank of Iowa, HACAP Food Reservoir, Northeast Iowa Food Bank, River Bend Foodbank, Food Bank for the Heartland, Food Bank of Southern Iowa, Food Bank of Siouxland and St. Stephen’s Food Bank  
[www.iowaFBA.org](http://www.iowaFBA.org).