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## News Release

### RESEARCH REVEALS STAGGERING RATE OF CHILDREN AT-RISK FOR HUNGER

#### 1 in 5 Children are Food Insecure in Nebraska and western Iowa

OMAHA, NE, AUG 25 - Results of a new study supported by the ConAgra Foods Foundation, the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and Nielsen shows approximately 20 percent of children in Nebraska and western Iowa under the age of 18 are at-risk for hunger. "Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2011" is a groundbreaking study from Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization, which provides data on a county level.

Of the 444,893 children in the 93 counties served by Food Bank for the Heartland, there are 92,270 children struggling with hunger according to study results. Douglas County has the most children at-risk for hunger (26,970) followed by Sarpy County (7,600) in Nebraska, Woodbury County (6,370) and Pottawattamie County (4,420) in Iowa. Thurston County has the highest rate of child food insecurity at 35.9 percent while Logan County has the lowest at 14.3 percent.

"These results are simply alarming," said Susan Ogborn, Food Bank President and CEO. "What makes it so disturbing is that some of the most vulnerable to the issue of hunger in our communities are children. We have to do better than this."

The research is an important tool because it provides critical information for developing strategies to alleviate child hunger. By providing additional details about the face of child food insecurity at the county level, "Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2011" will enable food banks, the community based agencies they serve and policy makers to redefine approaches in addressing needs of hungry children and their families and develop more effective policy solutions.

The full study is available on the Food Bank's web site at [FoodBankHeartland.org](http://FoodBankHeartland.org)

#### *About Food Bank for the Heartland (a member of Feeding America):*

Food Bank for the Heartland is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that acts as a central clearinghouse through which the food industry and community may donate surplus food to feed hungry individuals, families and children. Food is distributed to more than 350 member agencies in 77 counties in Nebraska and 16 counties in western Iowa. Annually, Food Bank for the Heartland distributes nine million pounds of product helping to feed over 150,000 people in need in the Heartland.

#### *About Feeding America*

Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, our network members supply food to more than 37 million Americans each year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member food banks support 61,000 agencies that address hunger in all of its forms. For more information on how you can fight hunger in your community and across the country, visit

<http://www.feedingamerica.org>. Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/FeedingAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/FeedingAmerica) or follow our news on Twitter at [twitter.com/FeedingAmerica](https://twitter.com/FeedingAmerica).