



# ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL STATEWIDE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Food insecurity in Arkansas is on the rise, AEHC is trying to bring awareness to this issue and be an ally to those in need. As our statewide project, we made a two-year commitment to address food insecurity. By working together to address food insecurity, we hope to lower the number of people without access to food. Our main goal is to provide one million meals by 2021.

## How can we make a difference?

Partnering with state food banks and local food pantries is a great way to make a difference. Many clubs organize projects that focus on food insecurity and assist residents in need. We've found that many students face food insecurity during summer break, and food banks struggle to support their needs. To help address this issue, we organized a statewide event, Packing Up for the Summer on April 25, 2020. We are encouraging clubs and councils across the state to participate by hosting food drives to help fill our food banks and food pantries for the summer. This will help food banks better meet the needs of students during the summer.

## How can you get involved?

### Donate food

- o Contact the local food pantries near you and see what they need.
- o Buy specific items they are in need of. Volunteer by working at a food pantry.

### Volunteer

- o Check with food banks near you and see how you can volunteer your time.
- o Ask the best way they can utilize you as a volunteer. Ask what foods they are in need of. Host a food drive, donate the items to the food bank.

### Make a Donation

- o Deposit any money raised into your club bank account. You can write a check to A.E.H.C and send it to Roberta. She will donate the money to the food bank of your choice. You can send checks to Roberta anytime.

## What if my club or council already has a project that addresses food insecurity? Does that apply to the statewide project?

Yes! Report it, we want all food insecurity related projects reported. Is this double dipping with our volunteer hours? No, you can report food insecurity for your regular yearly volunteer hours AND report it monthly on the food insecurity form.

## How does reporting work?

Reporting our impact is crucial to this project. With volunteers working across the state reporting could become unmanageable. To help streamline this process it is important to regularly fill out the volunteer form. Set a reminder to fill out this form every month, and send a copy to Roberta. By doing this, we can provide data and specific information that will help us show the impact we've made across the state of Arkansas. This is also a great way for us to show how many people are volunteering to alleviate food insecurity.

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### **Arkansas Food Banks**

**Arkansas Food Bank:** <https://arkansasfoodbank.org/>

**Food Bank of North Central Arkansas:** <http://www.foodbanknca.org/>

**Food Bank of North East Arkansas:** <http://foodbankofnea.org/>

**Harvest Food Bank:** <https://harvestregionalfoodbank.org/>

**Northwest Arkansas Food Bank:** <https://www.nwafodbank.org/>

**River Valley Regional Food Bank:** <https://www.rvrfoodbank.org/>