

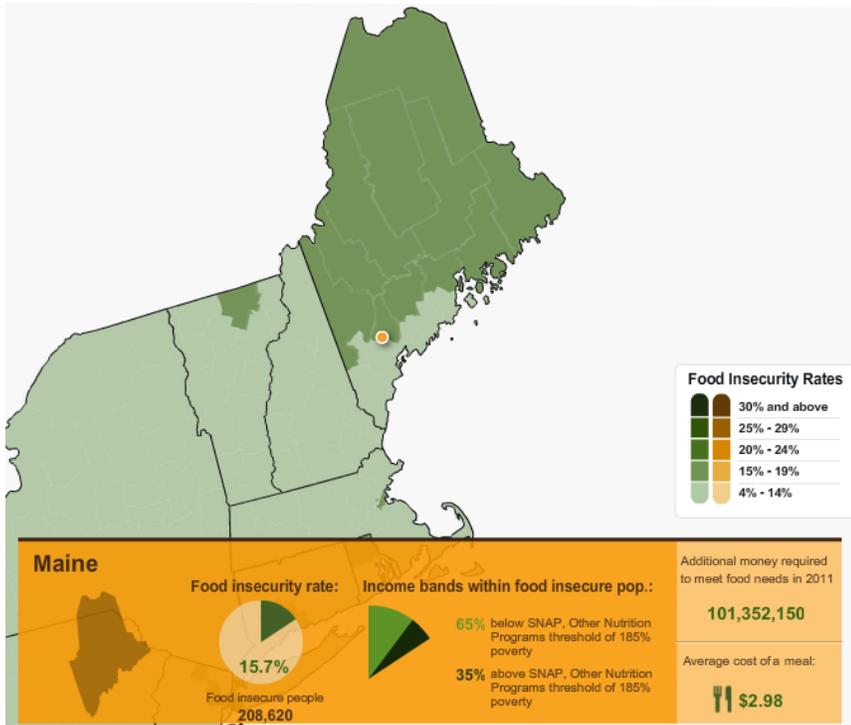


Good Shepherd Food-Bank

Feeding Maine's Hungry

For more information about Good Shepherd Food Bank visit www.feedingmaine.org or call (207) 782-3554

Hunger in Maine—it's closer than you think.



- 15.7 percent of Maine households—more than **200,000 people**—are facing hunger.
- Maine ranks 1st in New England for *food insecurity*, which means a person lacks access to enough nutritious food to lead a healthy life.
- 24 percent of Maine children, or nearly **1 in every 4 kids**, are food insecure
- The number of food insecure in our state has increased significantly in recent years—Maine has seen a **50% increase** in food insecurity since 2005.
- **40 percent** of people served by Good Shepherd Food Bank's network are kids.

- **56 percent** of people served by Good Shepherd Food Bank's network report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities such as heat.
- **40 percent** report having to choose between paying for food and paying for medical expenses.

Doing the Math: The Economic Impacts of Hunger

Hunger not only affects the families who struggle to access adequate food—it impacts our entire economy. According to the report *Hunger in America* by the Center for American Progress and Brandeis University, the annual cost of food insecurity is:

- **\$130.5 billion:** Illness costs linked to hunger and food insecurity.
- **\$19.2 billion:** Value of poor educational outcomes and lower lifetime earnings linked to hunger and food insecurity.
- **\$17.8 billion:** Value of charitable contributions to address hunger and food insecurity.

\$167.5 billion = total cost of hunger to US economy



The economic impact of hunger in our state reaches across sectors:

- ⇒ Hunger is a **healthcare** problem
- ⇒ Hunger is an **education** problem
- ⇒ Hunger is a **workforce** problem

...and hunger is completely preventable, treatable, and unnecessary in the United States.

“The healthy development of all children benefits all of society by providing a solid foundation for economic productivity, responsible citizenship, and strong communities.”

Jack P. Shonkoff, MD, Director
Center on the Developing Child
Harvard University

Hunger is not only a result of poverty, it perpetuates poverty. While poverty is a complex issue, feeding people is not. We have many national programs, in addition to a strong charitable hunger-relief system, working side-by-side to ensure families have access to nutritious food.

Together we can solve hunger!

Good Shepherd Food Bank & Maine Development Foundation Collaboration:

Good Shepherd Food Bank and Maine Development Foundation are partnering to have a positive impact on food security in Maine. We have an opportunity now to build a prosperous future for us all, supporting an economy that contributes to the wellbeing and quality of life of all Mainers. As an alumni of the Leadership Maine program, and a leader in this state, we ask that you join us:

Become an advocate for the food security work that Good Shepherd Food Bank is already doing on a community, state and federal level:

1. BE A VOICE for food security for all Mainers by actively supporting the work the Food Bank is already doing and sharing the stories of impact.
2. BE A LEADER in your community by joining or organizing activities that positively impact food security in your area.

Help us make the economic case for ending hunger in Maine:

1. JOIN A RESEARCH TEAM to synthesize existing information linking food insecurity with its economic impact.
2. JOIN A MESSAGING TEAM to create a plan to share the research findings and engage all Mainers in our work.

together we can fill this plate.

Donate at www.feedingmaine.org

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MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA