

HJR 8: Childhood Hunger Summary of Suggestions to Date

November 2011

The following table summarizes the suggestions presented to date as part of the House Joint Resolution 8 study of childhood hunger. The ideas were presented by panelists or submitted as written comment. The table is intended to help the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee narrow the focus of the study for the remainder of the study period.

The table lists each suggestion, indicates the source of the suggestion, and includes a column to identify how the committee will pursue the suggestion, if it chooses to do so. Options for future efforts could include:

- additional speakers;
- further staff research;
- draft legislation;
- forward a suggestion to community, state, or other programs;
- comment to congressional officials on matters related to federal laws or regulations; or
- other efforts as determined by the committee.

Suggestion	Source	Future Effort
Examine the tax structure for families below the federal poverty level and for single-parent families	Panelist/September 2011	
Create a tax check-off to fund food programs for children	Panelist/September 2011	
Increase taxes to pay for programs to reduce childhood hunger	Panelist/September 2011)	
Offer tax incentives to businesses that provide a living wage that is higher than minimum wage	Written Comment/November 2011	
Provide tax incentives to rural grocery stores to ensure that they stay in business	Written Comment/November 2011	
Improve family economic security through better-paying jobs, job-training programs, and recruitment of unemployed individuals	FSC-ECH*/September 2011 Written Comment/November 2011	
Encourage broad-based community efforts to start new food programs locally and increase participation in existing programs	FSC-ECH/September 2011	
Appropriate money to increase the number of Summer Food Service Program sites and to cover the gap in federal reimbursements	FSC-ECH/September 2011	

* FSC-ECH = Recommendations submitted by the Food Security Council of the Montana Food Bank Network and the End Childhood Hunger Steering Committee

Suggestion	Source	Future Effort
Increase the number of schools in the School Breakfast Program by encouraging participation and by expanding universal free breakfast, particularly in low-income schools	FSC-ECH/September 2011	
Provide outreach and technical assistance to homeless and domestic violence shelters to increase the number of shelters using the Child and Adult Care Food Program to provide food to children	FSC-ECH/September 2011	
Create and fund a program to reimburse schools that start a Farm to School program, using Oregon legislation as a model	FSC-ECH/September 2011	
Provide state funding to community food banks, for the purchase of emergency food	FSC-ECH/September 2011	
Increase nutrition education by coordinating the resources of state agencies and other groups that provide nutrition education to children and parents and/or instituting a model cooking curriculum for schools	FSC-ECH/September 2011 Written Comment/November 2011	
Assess the impact of food deserts and develop tax incentives or other incentives to improve the quality and prices of food at convenience stores in the state	FSC-ECH/September 2011	
Increase coordination among all public programs and streamline the application process for food programs through coordinated program rules, eligibility levels, application forms, and other means	FSC-ECH/September 2011 Written Comment/November 2011	
Provide classes at public libraries to help people navigate the SNAP application online	Written Comment/November 2011	
Expand the number of offices and service areas for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	Written Comment/November 2011	
Provide technical assistance to volunteers who want to establish a qualified Food Bank Network site	Written Comment/November 2011	
Increase and improve dissemination of information about food-assistance programs through locations such as grocery stores, libraries, churches, and schools	Written Comment/November 2011	
Advertise the availability of food-assistance programs, particularly WIC and the Summer Food Service Program	Written Comment/November 2011	

Suggestion	Source	Future Effort
Increase the income guidelines for all food-assistance programs to 185% of the federal poverty level	Written Comment/November 2011	
Implement after-school food programs through school sports teams	Written Comment/November 2011	
Provide state assistance to explore and develop cooperative child care programs to decrease child care costs and link the programs to the Child and Adult Care Food Program	Written Comment/November 2011	
Improve collaboration among service providers in the public and private sector, including faith-based organizations; create and maintain a stronger network of resources to help people in need of food	Written Comment/November 2011	
Replicate the Missoula Urban Demonstration program for sustainable living	Written Comment/November 2011	
Replicate Missoula's Program in Ecological Agriculture and Society partnership in other schools and communities	Written Comment/November 2011	
Give local communities greater freedom in using resources and administering programs to meet local needs	Written Comment/November 2011	
Improve the quality of food offered, use less prepared food, and increase the use of whole local food	Written Comment/November 2011	
Establish gardening programs at Department of Corrections facilities and donate half the food to food banks	Written Comment/November 2011	
Encourage mental health centers to teach gardening and farming skills to patients; donate half the food to food banks	Written Comment/November 2011	
Encourage or provide funding for schools to start a garden/farming program for class credit; donate half the food to food banks	Written Comment/November 2011	
Require the Montana University System to provide garden plots for all university-provided family housing	Written Comment/November 2011	
Require low-income housing complexes to provide gardening spots and pay for water for the gardens	Written Comment/November 2011	
Increase the development of Community Supported Agriculture to educate children and give them an opportunity to grow their food in gardens	Written Comment/November 2011	

Suggestion	Source	Future Effort
Restart the cannery at the Montana State Prison to preserve local produce through the Montana Food Bank Network	Written Comment/November 2011	
Establish ranch programs at Department of Corrections facilities and the Montana State Hospital, use state land for grazing cattle, and donate half the meat to food banks	Written Comment/November 2011	
Distribute milk from the Montana State Prison dairy to local food banks and the Montana Food Bank Network	Written Comment/November 2011	
Subsidize local foods so they can be used in food-assistance programs	Written Comment/November 2011	
Encourage the sale of Montana farm products within the state; research and develop more foods that can be grown in Montana	Written Comment/November 2011	
Offer incentives related to hunting, such as extra or discounted big game hunting licenses, to individuals who will donate the meat to food banks around the state; offer discounted hunting licenses to low-income families	Written Comment/November 2011	
Provide tax incentives for farmers, ranchers, and restaurants that participate in gleaning programs for both fresh and prepared foods	Written Comment/November 2011	
Teach hunting and fishing skills to children in school; teach women by expanding the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks program that teaches women outdoor skills and providing scholarships	Written Comment/November 2011	
Support supplemental funding for 4-H program participation, such as paying for livestock or seeds for children who participate	Written Comment/November 2011	
Make changes in the way federal Community Services Block Grant funds are used in Montana	Written Comment/November 2011	
Require the state to provide weatherization technical assistance and energy audit training on Indian reservations as a means of economic development for tribal members	Written Comment/November 2011	
Provide low-income people who volunteer in the state park system with food resources	Written Comment/November 2011	
Require the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to provide nutrition training to all people applying for public assistance and to their children	Written Comment/November 2011	

Suggestion	Source	Future Effort
Require DPHHS to provide food to participants in training sessions funded with Family Economic Security money	Written Comment/November 2011	
Require DPHHS to coordinate with school districts and local transportation systems to provide vouchers that could be redeemed for sack lunches or other foods	Written Comment/November 2011	
Require DPHHS and the Department of Labor and Industry to place Workforce Investment Act youth in work sites that benefit the state. Require Human Resource Development Councils to establish work duties that allow youth to receive high school or college credit for their work. Recruit retired teachers for the educational services.	Written Comment/November 2011	
Develop and promote food budgeting classes	Written Comment/November 2011	
Help schools identify at-risk families so they can be matched with food programs if eligible	Written Comment/November 2011	
Develop and fund food assistance efforts for working poor families who don't meet SNAP eligibility standards	Written Comment/November 2011	
Limit the types of food that may be purchased with SNAP benefits, similar to the WIC program	Written Comment/November 2011	

ADDITIONAL IDEAS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS/NOV. 14 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Suggestion	Source	Effort

