

Arkansas

# HUNGRY FOR CHANGE: VOTE TO END HUNGER



breadfortheworld  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.”

– Proverbs 3:27

## Hunger and Poverty Data

Arkansas is the **hungeriest state**. Last year, **21.2 percent of Arkansas households** were at risk of hunger.

Arkansas has the **4th highest poverty rate** in the country. Over **19 percent of Arkansans** lived in poverty in 2013.

**More than 1 in 4 Arkansas children** were living in poverty, including 60,708 children under age 5.

Since 2009, wages for the bottom 60 percent of American workers **have fallen by 4 to 6 percent**. Families on average are still **earning \$4,500 less** than before the recession.

**49.9 percent of Arkansas households** in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) are working households. **Over half of Arkansas SNAP recipients are children or elderly**.

SNAP moved **3.7 million Americans** out of poverty in 2013. The average SNAP recipient transitions off the program within 9 months.

## Behind the Numbers

The economy is improving, but not fast enough. **Relief isn't getting to families that need it most.**

Poverty continues to keep families from knowing where their next meal will come from.

**Hunger and poverty hit children hardest.** Hunger affects children's growth and education for the rest of their lives.

A full-time job is no longer enough to keep a family out of poverty. **Congress has yet to pass legislation that increases the minimum wage.**

Many SNAP participants who can work have a job but still need assistance. **Yet some Members of Congress voted to kick 2 million people off the program, many of whom were children, elderly or disabled.**

SNAP is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs. **Yet this Congress has proposed cutting SNAP funding 13 times.**

Source: 2013 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau

## Are your elected officials voting to end hunger?

Visit [www.bread.org/elections](http://www.bread.org/elections):

- to see how your members of Congress have voted on hunger and poverty issues
- for ways to engage candidates and make hunger an election issue