



Colorado Food Bank Association Digest

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www.cofoodbanks.org

America's Second Harvest — The Nation's Food Bank Network is comprised of 200 member food banks and food rescue organizations. It is the largest charitable hunger-relief organization in the country addressing the problem of domestic hunger by distributing over 2 billion pounds of donated food and grocery product annually to more than 25 million low-income hungry people in the United States, including 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors. This network of food banks serves all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The member food banks serving all 64 counties in Colorado include:

- Care and Share, Inc., Colorado Springs
- Community Food Share, Longmont
- Food Bank for Larimer County, Fort Collins
- Food Bank of the Rockies, Denver
- Weld Food Bank, Greeley



The mission of the **Colorado Food Bank Association** is *"building a well-nourished Colorado through education, advocacy and resource development."*



Each one of the five member food banks collects surplus food from food processors, farms, distributors, restaurants and supermarkets. Many also conduct community food drives or glean from local gardens. This food is then distributed to more than 1,600 nonprofit agencies that provide meals and services to people in need. The diversity of agencies include food pantries, day-care centers, battered women's shelters, soup kitchens, residential treatment center, senior and youth programs; serving all ages and segments of our community. The food provided to those living in poverty often means the difference between feeding their families or going hungry, having hope or living in despair.

As members of America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network, each food bank is monitored and operates in compliance with food industry standards for safe food handling, Inventory control, record keeping, sanitation and pest control.

The School Breakfast Program

Nearly 17 percent of the children in Colorado are at risk of hunger, and one if five people in a soup kitchen line is a child. These children, and the millions of other children across the country who are poorly nourished don't perform well in school, are more likely to suffer from health problems such as obesity and diabetes and have greater behavioral problems than their well-fed friends.

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provided breakfast to over 75,000 of Colorado's children in 2004-2005, but only 34% of the state's students that qualify for free or reduced breakfast participate in the program, which ranks a lowly 44th in the country. Colorado also does not have a state school breakfast mandate law, but if the state's participation rate were to grow to 55% through a result of new mandates or other initiatives, the state would receive an additional \$7.1 million in federal dollars to feed our hungry children.



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