



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

September 11, 2009

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Western Region

90 Seventh St.
Suite 10-100
San Francisco, CA
94103

You are invited to join me as I work to fulfill a major priority that the Obama Administration has challenged federal agencies to fulfill: **Eliminate Childhood Hunger by 2015**. Neither USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) nor any one group or organization can achieve this goal on its own. Therefore, I ask for your insight and experience in helping to identify innovative steps that FNS can employ towards meeting this challenge.

I am inviting representatives from state agencies, local program offices, professional organizations, advocacy groups, as well as program participants, their families and other interested parties located within the Western Region to attend a listening session in Oakland, California. The event will be held at the **Oakland Federal Building on Thursday, October 1, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** During the session, FNS representatives will listen and gather recommendations for ending childhood hunger by 2015 from program cooperators, participants and partners at state and local levels, who provide unique yet necessary points of view that will help assist the Obama Administration as it considers potential changes to programs and their delivery. All comments presented at the listening session will be considered as our agency creates a comprehensive plan to end childhood hunger by 2015.

You may submit your comments either orally or in writing. If you plan to speak at the listening session, you will be asked to limit your comments to three minutes or less. While not required, participants are strongly encouraged to provide written comments along with their oral presentations. To aid you in preparing your remarks, we ask that you consider the following questions:

1. What are the one or two most important efforts, both within the context of FNS programs and outside of that context that can be pursued which would contribute to ending childhood hunger?
2. Do you think we can end childhood hunger by increasing program benefits or increasing participation rates in the existing safety net and nutrition programs?
 - a. If yes, what changes to these programs would need to occur?
 - b. If maybe, what types of initiatives would strengthen FNS programs' reach?
 - c. If not, what other programs or initiatives would need to be put into place?
3. What else can be done to increase participation in the existing nutrition programs within the given policy and resource constraints?
4. How can FNS support your (or your organization's, community's, etc.) efforts in ending childhood hunger by 2015?

I hope that you will be able to join us on October 1 to share your recommendations on how to eliminate childhood hunger by 2015. Should you decide to attend, please return the attached form via e-mail to wro-pa@fns.usda.gov or fax to (415) 705-1364 by **September 25, 2009**. Please notify us if you require reasonable accommodations to participate at the listening session.

To ensure sufficient time to consider comments, please limit oral presentations to three minutes. Space is limited and speakers will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis at registration. All speakers must arrive before 1:00 p.m. Finally, as the listening session is held in a federal building, please be prepared to show official photo identification (e.g., driver's license) for entrance.

If you are unable to attend, I encourage you to e-mail (wro-pa@fns.usda.gov) or fax (415/705-1364) comments and recommendations to our office by October 15, 2009. Thank you for your work and for the important role you play in making a positive difference in the health and nutrition of our nation.

Sincerely,



ALLEN NG
Regional Administrator



USDA's Food and Nutrition Service: Fighting Hunger and Promoting Nutrition for 40 Years.



Western Region

Ending Childhood Hunger by 2015 Listening Session Thursday, October 1, 2009

10:00am - 3:00pm
lunch break (on your own) 12:00pm-1:00pm
Oakland Federal Building - Auditorium
1301 Clay Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Please join us to share your recommendations on how to eliminate childhood hunger by 2015.

For more information, please e-mail wro-pa@fns.usda.gov or call (415) 705-1311.

REGISTRATION FORM

TO: WRO Public Affairs
E-MAIL: wro-pa@fns.usda.gov
FAX: (415) 705-1364

Please print your

Name _____ Org. _____
Address _____ Phone _____
_____ E-Mail _____

I will attend.

I also would like to... (check all that apply)

- make a three minute statement.
I understand that I may not have the opportunity to speak because this is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- provide written comments.

I will not attend.

- But I would like to provide written comments.

Please notify us by September 25, 2009, if you require reasonable accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this activity.