



**END HUNGER CONNECTICUT! Inc.**

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Testimony Regarding  
**SB 382: An Act Concerning An Appropriation To Increase Funding  
for Elderly Nutrition Programs**  
and  
**HB 6277: An Act Increasing Funding for Elderly Nutrition Programs**

Human Services Committee  
February 8, 2007

Good day, Senator Harris, Representative Villano and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Sally Mancini and I am the Assistant Director at End Hunger Connecticut! (EHC!). EHC! is a statewide anti-hunger and food security organization with over 1,000 members, many of which are the emergency food providers in the state. Our goal is to improve levels of food security and nutrition among Connecticut's families. We are a voice not only for emergency food providers but also individuals who lack the resources to purchase nutritious foods. That is why I am here today in support of increased funding for elderly nutrition programs in SB 382: An Act Concerning An Appropriation To Increase Funding for Elderly Nutrition Programs and HB 6627: An Act Increasing Funding for Elderly Nutrition Programs.

Elderly individuals, living on fixed incomes, often must choose between buying food and paying for prescriptions and other necessities. Through EHC!'s food stamp outreach we see seniors struggling to make ends meet. The Food Stamp Program often offers an inadequate benefit and the rules of the program can be confusing to seniors. The Elderly Nutrition Program stands in the gap, providing nutrition services in group settings, through congregate meal sites, and in the home through Meals on Wheels. Thirteen Senior Nutrition Projects or Community Cafés staff over 200 Congregate Meals sites and Meals on Wheels programs around the state.

The Elderly Nutrition Program is targeted to those who need it most. According to a 2003, Administration on Aging report entitled *Pilot Study: First National Survey of Older Americans Act Title III Service Recipients*, 73% of Meals on Wheels recipients surveyed had a high nutritional risk and 62% received one half or more of their daily food intake from their home delivered meal. 36% of Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals respondents reported that they did not always have enough money or food stamps to buy food.

By maintaining the state fiscal year 2006 funding levels for the Elderly Nutrition Program we can continue to fill a gap left by a void in federal funding. This funding allows for advances in the quality and the quantity of the food being served. More nutritionally at-risk seniors will be able to participate, leading to growth and expansion in the program. In addition dietary

modification, an important part of treatment, could be included as a component of our elderly nutrition programs, positively impacting elderly people facing nutrition-related chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

In Connecticut the demand for the WIC Program for Fresh Produce for Seniors far outweighs the \$87,688 in federal funding and \$88,000 in state funding available to operate the program. Last summer only 18,514 seniors were able to use \$15 worth of coupons to purchase fruits and vegetables from Connecticut farmers. Seniors are deemed eligible for the program if they meet one of the following criteria: 1) live in subsidized housing, 2) participate in a Congregate Meal program or, 3) qualify for the Renter's Rebate program. Through a state funded expansion another 18,000 seniors at 185% of the FPL could stand to benefit from this program.

End Hunger Connecticut! is committed to keeping federal funding strong for this program in the 2007 federal Farm Bill and today I am happy to see this committee considering an increase in state funding that will avail many more seniors of fresh fruit and vegetables from local farmers. This program provides a multiplier effect in the community; it's a win for the seniors and small family farmers. In federal fiscal year 2005, 215 Connecticut farmers, 65 markets and 1 community supported agriculture program participated in the program.

End Hunger Connecticut! does recommend that a portion of the \$500,000 in increased funding be allocated to administrative coordination. There is absolutely no administrative funding available now. Distribution and redemption of the coupons requires considerable staff time and should be taken into consideration.

The friendly atmosphere and social contact offered by the Elderly Nutrition Program is an integral part of keeping Connecticut's growing senior population healthy and at home. The WIC Program for Fresh Produce for Seniors is a valuable program for seniors and farmers alike; coupons redeemed by seniors keeps farmers farming. Please support SB 382 and HB 6277.

Thank You.



Featured Areas

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

- WIC Program
- Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- Senior FMNP
- State Contacts
- Program Fact Sheets
- WIC Works Resource System
- Program Data
- Links
- Contact National Office

SFMNP Profile - FY2005

STATE	GRANT AMOUNT FY2005	RECIPIENTS	SEASON BENEFIT LEVEL	FARMERS	MARKETS	STANDS	CSAs
Alabama	\$910,819	59,542	\$20	1,057	79	133	0
Alaska	\$64,211	1,459	\$30	45	8	10	0
Arkansas	\$87,744	** 1,821	\$50	120	15	19	0
California	\$613,373	33,585	\$20	1,000	370	0	0
Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma	\$131,927	1,451	\$100	96	7	32	0
Colorado	\$13,662	1,172	\$20	9	1	1	0
Connecticut	\$83,019	14,536	\$15*	215	65	0	1
District of Columbia	\$129,695	7,185	\$30	36	23	0	0
Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc. (NM)	\$18,216	692	\$20	60	11	2	0
Florida	\$87,964	** 1,445	\$60	205	18	0	0
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (MI)	\$7,918	148	\$50	31	5	0	0
Hawaii	\$523,945	3,166	\$165	53	0	0	2
Illinois	\$707,883	43,500	\$15	306	71	0	0
Indiana	\$36,831	2,960	\$18	496	56	0	0
Iowa	\$510,059	21,193	\$28	823	116	62	1
Kansas	\$178,539	5,957	\$30	170	14	10	17
Kentucky	\$251,661	7,698	\$40	526	42	0	0
Louisiana	\$254,650	19,986	\$16	201	24	60	0
Maine	\$813,294	12,167	\$67*	169	45	0	169
Maryland	\$104,387	9,100	\$15	251	66	2	0
Massachusetts	\$51,826	5,098	\$10	245	107	0	0
Michigan	\$68,312	3,441	\$40	761	154	0	0
Minnesota	\$90,878	5,045	\$20	265	16	0	0
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	\$13,858	246	\$45	12	1	0	0
Mississippi	\$63,758	1,800	\$28	19	9	1	0
Montana	\$39,450	2,482	\$40*	175	8	0	1
Nebraska	\$228,731	4,765	\$48	631	63	199	4
Nevada	\$128,953	5,788	\$30	44	15	3	1
New Hampshire	\$68,989	5,797	\$18	151	54	0	0
New Jersey	\$622,189	31,109	\$20	150	74	199	0
New York	\$1,365,369	89,238	\$18	901	330	0	0
North Carolina	\$40,315	2,965	\$15	593	21	0	0
Ohio	\$1,192,310	18,300	\$65*	160	19	120	0
Oregon	\$703,311	21,184	\$40	528	60	250	0
Osage Tribal Council (OK)	\$27,936	1,151	\$25	8	3	0	0
Pennsylvania	\$1,366,229	175,914	\$20	847	175	704	0
Pueblo of San Felipe (NM)	\$15,084	378	\$40	242	1	0	0
Puerto Rico	\$856,791	31,047	\$16	48	37	0	0
Rhode Island	\$180,844	12,057	\$15	68	21	5	0
South Carolina	\$592,032	23,681	\$25	351	52	32	0
Tennessee	\$459,627	** 15,320	\$30	112	15	21	0
Vermont	\$79,507	2,143	\$61*	223	43	0	1
Virginia	\$384,040	9,309	\$40	139	17	23	0
Washington	\$112,686	16,145	\$31*	683	68	21	40
West Virginia	\$468,293	28,904	\$20	370	85	14	0
Wisconsin	\$248,885	9,215	\$30	1,073	179	78	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	\$15,000,000	752,699	\$33	14,668	2,663	2,001	237

\* Reflects a weighted average benefit level when different SFMNP benefit levels are provided to groups of recipients within the State.

\*\* Also served additional seniors w/State agency funds



Featured Areas

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

SFMNP Grant Levels 2001-2006

STATE	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005***	FY 2006***
Alabama	\$745,360	\$810,400	\$757,760	\$1,000,000	\$910,819	\$962,045
Alaska	\$100,000	\$45,320	\$52,221	\$70,498	\$64,211	\$67,822
Arkansas	\$101,500	\$100,000	\$96,335	\$96,335	\$87,744	\$92,679
California	\$1,000,000	\$1,039,100	\$791,800	\$673,430	\$613,373	\$647,870
Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma	\$140,280	\$112,900	\$144,845	\$144,845	\$131,927	\$139,347
Colorado	**	**	**	\$15,000	\$13,662	\$14,430
Connecticut	\$111,300	\$105,400	\$91,148	\$91,148	\$83,019	\$87,688
District of Columbia	\$192,500	\$154,500	\$143,080	\$142,394	\$129,695	\$136,989
Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc.	**	**	**	\$20,000	\$18,216	\$19,240
Florida	\$200,000	\$163,200	\$96,604	\$96,576	\$87,964	\$92,911
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians	\$13,500	\$9,500	\$6,440	\$8,694	\$7,918	\$8,363
Hawaii	\$536,000	\$378,000	\$575,246	\$575,246	\$523,945	\$553,412
Illinois	\$1,080,000	\$1,100,000	\$814,352	\$777,194	\$707,883	\$747,695
Indiana	**	\$59,900	\$42,297	\$40,437	\$36,831	\$38,902
Intertribal Council of Michigan	\$125,000	**	**	**	**	**
Iowa	\$510,000	\$337,200	\$467,997	\$560,000	\$510,059	\$538,745
Kansas	**	**	\$182,439	\$196,020	\$178,539	\$188,580
Kentucky	**	**	\$750,000	\$276,302	\$251,661	\$265,815
Louisiana	\$500,000	\$371,800	\$284,644	\$279,584	\$254,650	\$268,972
Maine	\$769,500	\$893,220	\$893,220	\$892,925	\$813,294	\$859,035
Maryland	\$192,000	\$196,600	\$130,988	\$114,607	\$104,387	\$110,258
Massachusetts	\$75,000	\$56,900	\$56,900	\$56,900	\$51,826	\$54,741
Michigan	\$150,000	**	**	\$75,000	\$68,312	\$72,154
Minnesota	\$92,000	\$79,600	\$77,280	\$99,776	\$90,878	\$95,989
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	\$4,000	**	**	\$15,215	\$13,858	\$14,637
Mississippi	**	**	**	\$70,000	\$63,758	\$67,344
Missouri	**	\$504,000	\$238,888	\$238,888	**	**
Montana	\$45,500	\$43,800	\$43,313	\$43,313	\$39,450	\$41,669
Nebraska	\$200,000	\$163,200	\$205,885	\$251,127	\$228,731	\$241,595
Nevada			\$200,010	\$141,579	\$128,953	\$136,205
New Hampshire	\$72,000	\$78,000	\$86,000	\$75,744	\$68,989	\$72,869
New Jersey	\$455,000	\$435,100	\$560,734	\$683,109	\$622,189	\$657,182
New York	\$1,500,000	\$1,457,900	\$1,499,059	\$1,499,059	\$1,365,369	\$1,442,159
North Carolina	\$77,303	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$44,263	\$40,315	\$42,582
Ohio	\$1,700,000	\$1,318,000	\$1,309,052	\$1,309,052	\$1,192,310	\$1,259,367
Oregon	\$1,500,000	\$970,100	\$882,249	\$772,174	\$703,311	\$742,866
Osage Tribal Council	\$17,500	\$22,720	\$22,270	\$30,672	\$27,936	\$29,507
Pennsylvania	**	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,366,229	\$1,443,068
Pueblo of San Felipe	**	**	**	\$16,560	\$15,084	\$15,932
Puerto Rico	**	**	\$1,000,000	\$940,681	\$856,791	\$904,978
Rhode Island	**	**	**	\$198,551	\$180,844	\$191,015
South Carolina	\$750,000	\$643,300	\$570,925	\$650,000	\$592,032	\$625,329
Tennessee	\$375,000	\$310,800	\$472,980	\$504,630	\$459,627	\$485,477
Vermont	\$43,400	\$43,000	\$64,660	\$87,291	\$79,507	\$83,979
Virginia	\$285,000	\$324,420	\$493,707	\$421,642	\$384,040	\$405,639
Washington	\$108,300	\$123,720	\$123,720	\$123,720	\$112,686	\$119,024
West Virginia	\$800,000	\$681,100	\$737,973	\$514,144	\$468,293	\$494,630
Wisconsin	\$330,000	\$313,300	\$299,579	\$273,254	\$248,885	\$262,883
<b>NATIONAL TOTALS</b>	<b>\$14,896,943</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>	<b>\$16,820,600</b>	<b>\$16,707,579</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>	<b>\$15,843,618</b>

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\*\* State agency did not participate in the program \*\*\* Final grant levels after reallocation of funds