



## Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank AND North County Food Bank



## Hunger Fact Sheet 2016

### Hunger and Poverty in San Diego County:

Of San Diego County's 3.1 million residents, 467,054 people live in poverty – that's 14.7% of the population of San Diego County.\* Of this number, 136,124 are children. These individuals face "food insecurity" which means that little or no food is available at home, and often they will not know how they will get their next meal.

(\*U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2014. Compiled by SANDAG, April 2016.)

### About the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank and the North County Food Bank:

The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank and the North County Food Bank feed 400,000 people per month in partnership with 400 nonprofit community partners that operate feeding programs. Our nonprofit partners include: food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, low-income daycare centers, senior centers, faith-based organizations, schools, and day centers for the elderly and disabled.

The Food Bank's nonprofit partners collect food from our 80,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Miramar and our North County Food Bank facility in San Marcos. They then distribute the food directly to people in need in their local communities. By acting as a central distribution point and through our own direct distributions, the Food Bank and our nonprofit partners provide food to communities throughout the county's 4,200 square mile radius. In the fiscal year 2014 - 2015, the Food Bank distributed 22 million pounds of food – the equivalent of 18.3 million meals. Of that number, 7.1 million pounds was fresh produce.

### Demand for Food Assistance:

Due to our region's high cost of living, tens of thousands of low-income families, including low-income military families, and fixed-income seniors rely on the Food Bank to put food on the table.

Of the 400,000 the Food Bank serves monthly, 28,000 are low-income military personnel and their dependents; 10,000 are fixed-income seniors; over 100,000 live at or near the poverty level and receive assistance through our Emergency Food Assistance Program; and 1,600 are elementary school children living in poverty who receive weekend backpacks full of food through our Food 4 Kids Backpack Program in 11 school districts in the San Diego County.

### How You Can Help:

There are many ways you can help:

- **Host a food drive** at your school, business or faith-based organization.  
[sandiegofoodbank.org/food-drives](http://sandiegofoodbank.org/food-drives)
- **Host a Virtual Food Drive** and donate from the ease of your computer or smartphone  
[sandiegofoodbank.org/virtual](http://sandiegofoodbank.org/virtual)
- **Volunteer** at the Food Bank's Miramar or San Marcos facilities  
[sandiegofoodbank.org/volunteer](http://sandiegofoodbank.org/volunteer)
- **Make a monetary donation.** Every \$1 donation provides 5 meals.  
[sandiegofoodbank.org/donate](http://sandiegofoodbank.org/donate)

### Most Needed Food Items:

- canned meats & tuna
- peanut butter
- canned soups
- canned fruits, vegetables & beans
- spaghetti
- cereal
- rice
- mac & cheese