

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Missouri Association for Social Welfare Awarded Grant To Further Local Anti-Hunger Efforts

Jefferson City, MO – The Missouri Association for Social Welfare (MASW), a statewide anti-hunger and social justice organization, with headquarters in Jefferson City and chapters in several Missouri cities, is pleased to announce it has received a grant from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). These funds will support MASW's work to raise awareness about the extent of hunger and poverty in our state and move closer to the ultimate goal of ending hunger in Missouri.

"Hunger continues to be a serious problem in Missouri. Many of our residents struggle with hunger on a monthly basis, and some even face it day by day," said Jeanette Oxford, executive director of MASW. "Since 1901, MASW has worked to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors – including seniors, working families, children, veterans, individuals with disabilities and those who are homeless – have enough food to get by. We are pleased to have FRAC as such a strong supporter and partner in our work to end hunger in Missouri."

The grant will enable MASW to intensify its efforts to ensure access and participation in federal food programs. MASW's advocacy will include:

- Expanding utilization of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and child nutrition programs, such as school lunch and breakfast, afterschool snacks and suppers, and summer food.
- Making key changes in federal, state and local policy and practice as relates to nutrition programs; for example, using eligibility guidelines that reflect the true cost of living instead of ending access to programs at income levels where families cannot yet make ends meet.

"Many Missourians do not recognize the key role that federal nutrition programs play as a solution to hunger and poverty," Oxford added. "Through public policy research and analysis and education of community leaders, we hope to spread awareness and support for these programs in our state."

To learn more about the Missouri Association for Social Welfare, visit: <http://www.masw.org>. To learn more about Food Research and Action Center, see: <http://frac.org>.

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