

## End Hunger in America – Stories from Across Our Nation Overview

With an abundant food supply in our nation, one can easily be unaware that millions of our neighbors struggle to make ends meet, including children, Veterans, and older adults. Many of us would be shocked to learn that someone they know is struggling. That *can* and *needs* to change.

The purpose of this initiative is to (1) highlight that hunger and food insecurity exist everywhere in the United States; (2) broadcast people's stories in their own words to determine how lack of access to nutritious food creates barriers to leading an active, healthy life; and (3) illustrate how nutrition safety nets benefit those in need.

Through a variety of targeted programs –SNAP (formerly called “food stamps”), WIC, School Meals, Meals on Wheels, Child and Adult Care Feeding Programs, Summer Feeding Programs – our nation's nutrition safety net lifts people out of poverty. These programs are funded by Congress. Therefore, Congress needs to know that, while our nation is recovering from the Great Recession, many are *still* struggling and hunger and poor nutrition persists in America. Our federal nutrition safety net lifts people out of poverty and also enables them to lead healthier lives.

**Tool:** On March 17, 2015, StoryCorps launched a free app (available at [storycorps.me](http://storycorps.me)) enabling anyone to record interviews that will be archived at the Library of Congress. Those stories can also be shared on the internet via Twitter, Facebook, and email. The StoryCorps app—a free mobile application—walks users through an interview by providing easy to follow, step-by-step guidelines. The app will guide you through the process of recording, asking questions, and saving your interview. StoryCorps provides a home for the interviews and the opportunity to be archived at the Library of Congress.

Listen to some End Hunger stories that have already been recorded:  
<https://storycorps.me/user/clancyharrison/>

StoryCorps began in 2003 with the idea that everyone has a story to tell. The project has been collecting stories of everyday Americans and preserving them for future generations. This new app enables anyone to record their own story.

**Who:** The anti-hunger, anti-poverty, nutrition networks across the nation and locally plays a vital role in this effort. We are asking you to help record their stories and make them available to the public. We will use these stories to raise public awareness of Hunger in America, via the press and members of Congress.

**Where:** Anywhere that is quiet and safe! We aim to collect a mix of urban, suburban, rural stories.

**Time:** Schedule 30-45 minutes for each interview, which will include time for paperwork, describing the process, recording the story, and wrap up. The interview itself should last about 3-5 minutes.

**When:** Start collecting stories on May 1, 2015

### Overview of the Process:

1. Download the app from iTunes store (Apple users) or the Google Play store (Android users) to your mobile device.
  - You can download the app and create an account at <http://storycorps.me>

**(TIP!) If you have trouble creating an account on your mobile device you can also create an account from you desktop/laptop.**

2. Choose who you will interview.
3. Arrange a day, time, and quiet place to interview a community member.
4. On the day of the interview:
  - Review/use the Interviewer Guide & Example Script, which provides sample interview questions (pages 5 – 6 of this toolkit)
  - Review and Complete Interviewee release forms (pages 3 – 4 of this toolkit)
5. Record your interview via the StoryCorps app

**(TIP!) Make sure you are using a device with enough storage to save your interview**

6. Upload the interview to the Internet via the StoryCorps app
  - Include an interview:
    - (1) **title** – which should include participant’s town, state, zip code
    - (2) **key word *EndHunger***, and
    - (3) **photo**
      - Optional key words: SNAP, WIC, SchoolLunch, Nutrition, Hunger, SafetyNet, Nutrition4Kids, KeepKidsHealthy, VoicesofHunger, KeepSchoolFoodHealthy, MealsonWheels, MoreThanaMeal, SummerMeals
7. Send us your stories!
  - Once you upload your story/interview you will receive a public web link
  - Please send us an email at [jfolliard@eatright.org](mailto:jfolliard@eatright.org) that includes:
    - A scanned copy of the Interviewee release forms
    - Your name and contact information
    - The public web link to your story
8. Share your stories on social media, and with the local press!

## **End Hunger in America – Stories from Across Our Nation Information for Interviewees (Including Release Form)**

### **What is the purpose of this interview?**

Lend your voice by sharing your personal story – your struggle to make ends meet – and how nutrition assistance helps/has helped you and your family.

### **What will happen if you take part in the interview?**

On March 17, 2015 StoryCorps launched a free app (available at [storycorps.me](http://storycorps.me)) enabling anyone to record interviews that will be archived at the Library of Congress. Those stories can also be shared on the internet via Twitter, Facebook, and email.

You will be asked 3-6 questions. The purpose of this interview is for community members to better understand the food needs of families and to improve access to healthy food. You may choose to respond or not respond at any point during the interview. Your interview will be recorded. By participating in this interview, you give interviewer the right to record and upload the recording to StoryCorps (<https://storycorps.me/>), a public app and website.

### **How long will your interview last?**

Your interview will last approximately 3-5 minutes.

### **What are some general things you should know about your interview?**

This interview is *voluntary*. You may refuse to participate, or you may participate and then drop out of the interview at any time and for any reason. Details about your interview are discussed below to help you understand its purpose.

### **Will you receive anything for participating in the interview?**

No. You will not receive any monetary or other compensation for this interview.

### **Will it cost you anything to participate in the interview?**

No. There are no costs for being in the interview other than your time.

### **What if you have questions about the interview?**

You have the right to ask, and receive answers to, any questions you may have about the interview. If you have questions, or concerns, you may contact, confidentially if you wish, Jennifer Folliard or Stefanie Winston 202-775-8277.

**Photo/Audio Tape/Video Tape Release Form**

As part of the End Hunger in America – Stories from Across Our Nation project, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and FRAC requests the use of photographic/audio/video material. We specifically ask your consent to use this material as we deem proper. These materials may be used for news releases, reports, professional publications, professional conferences, websites, advocacy efforts and pictorial exhibits to promote the End Hunger in America – Stories from Across Our Nation project. Neither the Academy or FRAC does not have the ability to remove the material posted to the public website (<https://storycorps.me/>)

I consent to the recording of my statements and grant to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and FRAC it’s assigns, licensees, and successors the right to copy, reproduce, and use all or a portion of the statements (the “Interview”) for all purposes, including advertising, trade, or any commercial purpose throughout the world and in perpetuity. I grant the right to use my image and name in connection with all uses of the Interview and waive the right to inspect or approve any use of my Interview.

\_\_\_\_\_ (name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (or parent’s signature if child)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Person Obtaining Consent

## End Hunger in America – Stories from Across Our Nation Interviewer’s Guide & Example Script

Thank you for your participation in StoryCorps story collection project!

We appreciate your time and the effort you are making to help tell the important story of your family member, friend, or loved one. The potential for this story to touch and move others to take action to end hunger is great, and we believe that the telling of stories benefits the story teller as well.

The following provides some instruction and a list of potential questions to help stimulate a conversation with a family member or friend. These are just to help you get started.

### What makes a good story<sup>1</sup>?

This is a simple conversation between two people and the time will go very quickly.

Sit in a quiet place, and while you talk make eye contact.

Ask general, open-ended questions and be patient.

Take turns – only one person should speak at a time.

### Ready to begin your interview?

#### Introduction

*(Greeting, your name). I’m working to raise awareness about hunger in America. Would you like to share your story about how programs such as (insert SNAP, school meals, summer meals, CACFP), have helped you and your family? By lending your voice, you will help inform future programs that will provide millions of other Americans with access to healthy food. In addition to your story, I will be talking with other individuals across our community. All of the stories will be archived in the Library of Congress. If you have questions about this interview you can contact Jennifer Folliard or Stefanie Winston by phone at 202-775-8277.*

1. Provide the Interviewee with a printed copy of the Information for Interviewees (Including Release Form).
2. Obtain consent before moving forward. *Be sure to read through the Release form with the Interviewee before they sign the form.* The Interviewee may want to keep a copy of the Information for Interviewees (including Release Form). Be sure to have a few extra copies printed out.

**(TIP!) If you are interviewing during your work day, it would be prudent to obtain consent from your employer as well.**

*This interview should only last about 3-5 minutes. **We can stop at any time.** Please feel free to speak openly. **There are no correct or wrong answers to these questions.** We would like to get as many different points of view as we can.*

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from StoryCorp app Tips on Recording

*Do you have any questions before we start?*

**(TIP!) Before you begin recording, set your device on airplane mode.**

**\*\*START RECORDING\*\***

**Icebreaker Question (1 minute)**

1. *What's your name and where do you live?*
2. *What is your relationship with the interviewer?*
3. *Why did you agree to tell your story?*

To “loosen up” or break the ice, you may wish to ask some general questions such as:

- *Tell me a little about your childhood and youth...where you grew up...*
- *Tell me about your family...your marriage...*
- *Tell me about your job...*

When you are feeling more comfortable, you may start in with more specific questions:

**Example Questions (2-4 minutes):**

1. *What barriers have you faced finding healthy food? What has been your approach to these barriers? What have been the hardest moments? What have been the most rewarding moments?*
2. *Has anyone in particular been an influence on you in your journey to access healthy food? Tell me a story about them.*
3. *What have your experiences been like with food programs such as [SNAP, WIC, the National School Lunch Program, Meals on Wheels, or congregate meals]?*
4. *What do you think would surprise people about your experiences with hunger?*
5. *What do you do when there is not enough food available?*
6. *Why do you think it is important to eat healthy food?*
7. *What are your hopes and dreams for you and your family?*

**\*\*STOP RECORDING\*\***

*Thank you for taking the time to tell me your story. I greatly appreciate your time.*

**(TIP!) Refer to Overview of the Process: Steps 6 and 7 to save and upload your interview and send us your story and release form!**