

# THE ANTI-HUNGER

April 2003

A Special Federal Nutrition Program Edition

## ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee of Crossroads Urban Center

347 South 400 East, Salt Lake City 1-888-747-8482 or 364-7765

The Anti-Hunger Action Committee (AHAC) organizes low-income individuals and their allies to take action on their own behalf to improve the social safety net and promote better jobs.

### Feeding Utah's Children

WIC, free and reduced price school breakfast and lunch, and other child nutrition programs depend on money from the federal government to provide Utah children with nutritious food.

And guess who gets to decide how much money these important programs get? You guessed it--our very own Senator Bennett and Senator Hatch get to decide how much money the federal government spends on food for children.

AHAC thinks funding for child nutrition programs is important, so we have invited the Director of Utahns Against Hunger to come to our next meeting and tell us what we can do about it.



**Take Action Now!**



Sign the Petition at Crossroads Urban Center's Food Pantry and let Sen. Bennett and Sen. Hatch know nutrition programs should be funded!

### How you can help feed Utah's Children

Tuesday, April 15 at 6pm

Crossroads Urban Center:

347 South 400 East

Free refreshments and childcare.

Call Bill or Mandi at 364-7765 for more info.

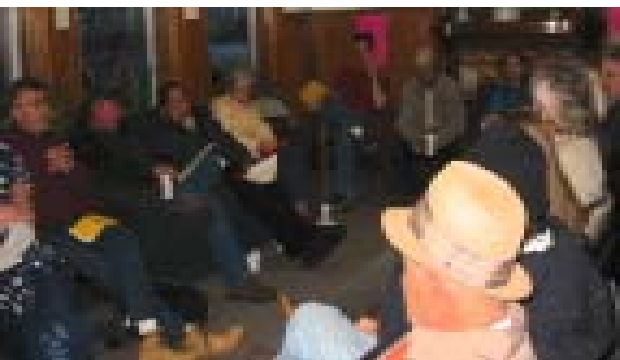


### Letting DWS Know What's on Our Minds.....

On March 18th, the lobby of Crossroads Urban Center was packed as members of the community talked with representatives of the Department of Workforce Services about bus passes for job seekers, changes with the Temporary Placement Office, and immigrant eligibility for Food Stamps. Here's some thoughts on why its important to come to meetings with DWS.

**Esther:** DWS says they want to know how to serve people better. This meeting gave DWS an idea on how to help people with the things they need. It put DWS in touch with the real people who use their services.

**Ruthena:** I came to find more about DWS and what their plans were for the TPO and the shorter Food Stamp Application. I also found out some good information about how they could help me find employment.



# GOOD NEWS! ABLE-BODIED ADULTS' ELIGIBILITY FOR FOOD STAMPS HAS IMPROVED!!

On April 1st, the Department of Workforce Services is changing the way it determines how many months of food stamps that able-bodied adults are eligible for food stamps. Able-bodied adults will now be eligible for more months of food stamps if they face one barrier to employment.

Barriers to employment include:

- If the able-bodied adult has a limited work history: Not employed by the same employer for longer than 3 months out of the past 24 months.
- If the able-bodied adult is between 45-50 years of age.
- If the able-bodied adult has a substance abuse or domestic violence issue.

**If you or someone you know faces one of these barriers to employment and would consider themselves an able-bodied adult without children, its time to check out the Food Stamp Program again! You might be eligible for more months of food stamps, but you'll never know if you don't ask! Call 1-800-526-3663 for a Food Stamp Office near you and read the rest of this page for more good info about food stamps!**

## Getting to know....Nutrition Programs

*A short guide to state and federal nutrition programs and how you can get in on the action.*

**Food Stamps:** Helps families and individuals to buy groceries each month. Around 80,000 Utah families are eligible for food stamps. To find out about eligibility and where you can apply, call: **1-866-526-3663**.

**WIC:** Provides food, such as: milk, formula, eggs, cheese, cereal, etc, to pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants and children under 5, who are low income and at nutritional risk. To find out more about eligibility and to apply, call **464-8900**.

## School Lunch and Breakfast Programs:

Provides free or reduced-price meals to students from low-income families. To apply, contact your child's **school office**.

**Summer Food Programs:** Provides free nutritious meals and snacks during the summer to children, ages 18 and less, regardless of income level. For more info, call **328-2561**.

**For more information on these nutrition programs and your rights as a recipient, contact Mandi or Bill at 364-7765.**

## Pounding the pavement...

Looking for a job is tough enough, but when you have no form of transportation, job searches can be near impossible. But never fear, help can be found at your local Department of Workforce Services!

If you have an employment plan at DWS, they can help you with transportation by giving you money for a bus pass or gas. **ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK YOUR EMPLOYMENT COUNSELOR!**

**Help with transportation....just one more reason it pays to check out the Food Stamp Program.**

## Good Things to Know about Food Stamps

- You have the right to be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect.
- You don't need to have a birth certificate if you are only applying for food stamps.
- Make an extra copy of the stuff you turn into DWS, have DWS date stamp it, and keep it for your records.
- Benefits are required to be issued to you within 7 days or 30 days of your application, it just depends on your situation.
- Have a comment? Call the DWS comment line at 1-800-331-4341 and let them know!
- **Call Mandi or Bill at 364-7765 if you want help with your food stamp case.**