

Statistics

The definition of food security is, as you might imagine, just the opposite! **Food security means having reliable access to enough good, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.** It means that you or your family aren't worried about paying for groceries, where your next meal might come from, or cutting back on food in order to pay the bills. (Food [forward.org](http://www.foodforward.org))

Among people who are food insecure, approximately one-third have incomes above 185% of the federal poverty line, and most do not qualify for any federal nutrition assistance programs. For these households, charitable food assistance may be the only option. (www.feedingamerica.org)

Oconee County, South Carolina has a population of 79,203 and 11.5% of those are considered to be food insecure according to Feeding America. of those fall beneath the 150% poverty guidelines according to www.censusreporter.org.

3,286 of individuals are food insecure and 1,084 of those are children. has a poverty rate of 11.5%. To be considered in poverty, a family of four must have an income of less than \$26,500 (gross). Childhood hunger is equal to 13.1% in Oconee County South Carolina per Feeding America.

In the Gap is committed to stamping out food insecurity. The Bridging The Gap program is committed to helping the food insecure by providing a food pantry that is available to those individuals whose salaries are between 151%-200% of the poverty guidelines. This pantry houses foods that are both non allergen and allergen friendly. Additionally, we provide in school child snack bags.

The cost of food has risen drastically over the last few years making it difficult for families to provide for themselves.

Further, it is our belief that allergen friendly foods are significantly more expensive thus causing many individuals to be forced to choose between purchasing medications, pay rent, car insurance et al.

The cost of gluten free food is 240% more expensive than standard food and dairy free food is 75% higher than non dairy food. This problem is compounded when a comorbidity is present such as a gluten free/dairy free diet.

We are committed to assisting the working who are making too much money to receive typical food assistance but too little to sustain themselves and their families. We also seek to assist those individuals who need to adhere to restrictive diets for optimal health.

Our Goal

Our goal at In The Gap is to provide a food pantry that is available to those individuals who are between 151%-200% of the poverty guidelines. This group of individuals are

working and make too much to receive assistance from pantries that only serve individuals who's incomes are equal to or lower than 150% of the poverty guidelines. Our pantry houses safe food for those with allergens and food intolerances. Those with dietary restrictions often encounter grocery bills that are 30% higher than individuals without dietary restrictions.

Additionally, we deliver in school snacks to students who cannot otherwise afford them. By doing this, we are relieving many teachers and social workers from providing these snack from their own resources.

Bridging the Gap Food Pantry is open year round and will get collaborate with local food pantries, The United Way, Ripple of One as well as schools and churches within the county. The in school school snacks will be provided for forty (40) weeks per year.