



## The GOALS

of this lesson are to:

- build an understanding of the role that government plays in responding to the needs of the hungry (SOCIAL STUDIES, POLITICAL SCIENCE)
- learn and appreciate how our country has responded to hunger at different points in our history (SOCIAL STUDIES, HISTORY)
- conduct and report on the results of a group research effort to look at hunger policy at a particular point in American history (RESEARCH, WRITING, PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS, POLITICAL SCIENCE)

## LESSON TWO: Research Lesson on Historical Changes in the National Response to Hunger

This lesson has two components: a **RESEARCH PROJECT** which should be assigned to small groups in advance of the lesson; and a **DISCUSSION** of what each group learned and what the class as a whole learned from the project.



### RESEARCH PROJECT

Assignment: Give this assignment a week or two in advance of the lesson. You may want to allow class time to do the research in small groups prior to the class discussion.

Divide the class into small groups so that you have at least one group researching each of the following time periods in American history: the New Deal, the War on Poverty, present Congress. Assign each group research on what national hunger policy was during each of the three periods. Have the groups address the following questions:

- What historical and economic factors made this a time period when the government decided that it was an appropriate time to take a fresh look at hunger policy? What other social policy changes was the government considering at the same time?
- What programs to assist hungry families were in existence before this period began?
- What programs were created during this time? Why did the government think that these programs would help? Did they?

Have each group prepare a written report of what they learned. Have them also prepare to present their findings back to the class, with different members of the small groups presenting different parts of the research.



### DISCUSSION

Have each small group report their findings back to the full class, beginning with the New Deal and working up to the present Congress. After all of the reports have been presented, discuss:

- How has hunger policy changed over the course of American history?
- Has our country gotten better at feeding the hungry? What did we learn as a result of implementing hunger policy at each of these periods?
- What was the same and what was different about hunger policy at different times in our country's history?
- What challenges should Congress be thinking about with regard to hunger policy in the future?