



## **2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

End Hunger CT!'s mission is to eliminate hunger in the state through legislative and administrative advocacy, outreach and public education. EHC! tracks, analyzes, and takes action on policy related to hunger and nutrition and that which impacts our most vulnerable residents. This legislative session, EHC! will be focusing on the following issue areas:

### **Increasing Access to Services**

- Increase accessibility to SNAP/Food Stamps
- Increase funding for nutrition assistance for older adults (congregate meals and Meals on Wheels)
- Support additional funding for Senior's Farmer's Market Coupons to \$21

### **Investing in Models that Work**

- Create a state-funded Child Nutrition Outreach Program that uses proven strategies to feed more children and capture federal dollars
- Support farmland and working land preservation efforts

### **Protecting Nutrition Services**

- Defending against efforts to add requirements of SNAP participants that create unnecessary barriers to food assistance
- Defend against efforts to decrease School Meal nutrition standards or funding

### **Strengthening the Safety Net**

- Limit the impact of benefit cliffs: When incomes rise, benefits can end abruptly, resulting in a huge marginal tax rate, creating disincentives to earn more, and weakening the safety net
- Fully reinstate the state Earned Income Tax Credit: Connecticut's EITC was cut from 30% of the federal credit to 25% in 2013
- Support sales tax exemption for diapers

### **Addressing Childhood Obesity**

- Restrict marketing of junk foods in schools
- Institute procurement standards for foods sold on state property
- BMI Surveillance to track and monitor childhood obesity rates
- Support increased taxes on soda and sugar-sweetened beverages