FACTS: Hunger & Poverty in Colorado

- Nearly **1 in 11 Coloradans (9.2%) struggle with hunger**, not always having enough money to buy food.

- More than **1 in 10 Coloradans (10.3%) struggle financially**, living below the federal poverty line. This includes more than 1 in 8 kids (13%) with those under the age of 5 most likely to live in poverty.
  (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey: Poverty, September 2018)

- Nearly **1 in 7 Colorado kids (14%) may not always know when or where they will get their next meal.**
  (Colorado Children’s Campaign, 2018 KIDS COUNT in Colorado!, March 2018)

- In a room of **50 older adults, 3 of them (5.8%) are facing hunger in Colorado**, and forced to make choices between purchasing groceries or medication.

- **1 in 12 Coloradans use food stamps**, including hard-working families, children, seniors, veterans and those who are disabled.
  (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Colorado Food Assistance Program fact sheet, March 2018)

- **Of food stamp recipients in Colorado**, almost 3 in 4 (72%) live with children, 1 in 4 (27%) live with an elderly or disabled resident, and almost half (48%) are members of working families.
  (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Colorado Food Assistance Program fact sheet, March 2018)

- A Coloradan, on average, **only receives about $1.39 per meal in food stamp benefits**, making it a challenge to put healthy food on the table for themselves and their family.
  (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Colorado Food Assistance Program fact sheet, March 2018)

- About **21,000 veterans in Colorado live in households that participated in food stamps** at some point during a 12-month period.
  (Center of Budget Policies and Priorities, SNAP Helps Almost 1.5 million Low Income Vets, including thousands in every state, November 2017)

- Compared to other state participation rates, Colorado ranks **14th in school breakfast participation** for low-income students and **45th in SNAP/food stamp access** for those eligible.
  (Food Research and Action Center, School Breakfast Scorecard for 2016-2017 School Year, February 2018; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Program Access Index, 2016, February 2018)

- While Coloradan participation has improved, statewide numbers still remain low in major nutrition assistance programs. For example, only 3 in 5 low-income Coloradans (60%) participate in the food stamp program that helps struggling families and individuals purchase groceries.
  (U.S. Department of Agriculture, SNAP Program Access Index, 2017, December 2018)