

15

Expanding the coverage of existing food programs

- 1 WHEREAS the 1984 President's Task Force on Food Assistance defines hunger as being a situation in which someone cannot obtain an adequate amount of food, even if the shortage is not prolonged enough to cause health problems ;
- 2 WHEREAS hunger is likely to precede medical and psychological symptoms of malnutrition;
- 3 WHEREAS hunger is an increasing problem across all age groups, particularly among those who are poor;
- 4 WHEREAS hunger can result from food shortages due to inadequate resources, reliance on emergency food providers, lack of access to grocery stores, loss of appetite, and reduced ability to prepare or eat food;
- 5 WHEREAS, in 1993, 1.5 million elderly persons reported that they had experienced food deprivation within the last 6 months;
- 6 WHEREAS 40 percent of persons age 65 or older who experience hunger have incomes above the poverty level;
- 7 WHEREAS 26.4 million senior adults (84.6 percent) do not participate in food assistance programs, yet there are thousands on waiting lists for home-delivered meals; and
- 8 WHEREAS food and nutrition programs provide a safety net against hunger and malnutrition for all ages;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:

- 9 Continue, support, and expand programs that provide food and nutrition services to all age groups, including children;
- 10 Strengthen congregate meal sites and increase resources for home-delivered meals so that more older persons receive meals seven days a week;
- 11 Continue voluntary contributions for meals while at the same time maintaining sensitivity to the needs of low-income older persons and the intent of the Older Americans Act (OAA);
- 12 Preserve the OAA nutrition programs as established and funded, including full funding for Titles III and VI of the Act;

- 13 Strengthen the Federal food stamp program and raise the minimum benefit level to \$20.00 per month;
- 14 Do not block grant the food stamp program.

