



To: Obama/Biden Transition USDA Review Team

From: Joel Berg, Executive Director, New York City Coalition Against Hunger

Date: December 22, 2008

Subject: **How the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Bill Can Help the Obama Administration Meet Its Goal of Ending Child Hunger by 2015**

The Obama Administration should propose a bill that would:

- 1) Set a goal of cutting food insecurity among U.S. children in half by 2013 and ending it by 2015;
- 2) Provide the funding and the guidance necessary to enable most American elementary and secondary schools to provide every student with free school breakfasts (regardless of their family income) in the first-period classroom;
- 3) Provide the funding to enable every school in America to provide free lunches to all their students, regardless of family income (by making school meals universal in this way, the country can decrease government expenditures on paperwork now used to make income eligibility determinations and instead use that money improve the nutrition of children);
- 4) Increase reimbursements to school districts that provide healthier foods, particularly for districts buying from small local farmers;
- 5) Make the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutritional assistance program an entitlement available to any low-income parent or child who needs it and fund nutritional improvements in the WIC package;
- 6) Increase reimbursements for both government and non-profit agencies that sponsor after-school and summer meals for children;
- 7) Create the Beyond the Soup Kitchen Grants Program as proposed in the Anti-Hunger Empowerment Act of 2007 (HR206); and
- 8) Create a pilot program to reward states for reducing child hunger and food insecurity.

Both the Economic Recovery Bill and President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal should pay for these improvements.