

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The economic and health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on Arkansas families and individuals in need. Despite dedicated effort over the last decade by non-profits, government agencies, businesses and other organizations to reduce the number of Arkansans experiencing hunger, the ramifications of the pandemic have reversed this progress; and

WHEREAS: The number of Arkansans experiencing food insecurity has soared over the last year. To meet this increased need, Arkansas anti-hunger advocates have worked with state and federal agencies to seek waivers that have allowed pantries expanded flexibility for food distribution, and out of school programs and school districts flexibility in how they serve meals to children

WHEREAS: Arkansas's six Feeding America food banks distributed more than 95 million pounds of food through the charitable food network in 2020 — an increase of 30 million pounds over the previous year; and

WHEREAS: September has been designated Hunger Action Month, and hunger relief providers and advocates across the state are committed to ending hunger and empowering Arkansans with nutrition education and skills to increase their ability to provide nutritious food on a budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 2021 as

ARKANSAS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

across the state, and I encourage my fellow citizens to promote awareness about hunger and to unite together in the fight against hunger.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 20th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2021.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary Of State