

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: According to a recent report, 521,490 people (17.3 percent) in Arkansas live without a reliable source of food—more than one in six Arkansas families. Arkansas is number three in the nation for childhood food insecurity, with over 162,000 children in Arkansas facing hunger; and

WHEREAS: Despite continuous effort over the last decade by non-profits, government agencies, businesses and other organizations to lower the percentage of Arkansans accessing food support to pre-recession numbers, the economic and health ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to reverse this progress, as thousands of Arkansas families are newly at risk of facing food insecurity; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that the impact of the COVID-19 on the overall food insecurity rate in Arkansas will increase to 22.5 percent in 2020, which translates to an additional 157,000 Arkansans struggling with hunger by the end of 2020; 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

WHEREAS: No child, senior citizen, man, or woman should be faced with a lack of food. Developmental and cognitive deficits, educational deficits, recurring illnesses in child and senior populations, lack of productivity, and negative long-term social and economic consequences are among the damaging results of food insecurity; and

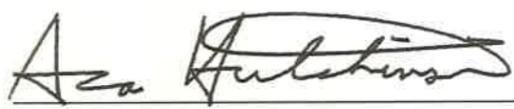
NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 2020 as

**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 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the year of our Lord 2020.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor