# 2014 ARIZONA FOOD BANK CONFERENCE



# PARTNERSHIPS AGAINST HUNGER: SNAP IN ARIZONA

# HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=JW7UT1JOT0O



#### WHAT IS SNAP?

- SNAP stands for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (also known as Nutrition Assistance, or food stamps)
- SNAP is a government benefits program to help low-income households purchase food each month.
- The USDA oversees SNAP at a federal level, and SNAP is administered through the Department of Economic Security in Arizona State.

# WHAT IS THE NEED?

## IN ARIZONA...

18.7% of Arizonans live in poverty (vs. 15.9% nationwide)27% of children live in poverty10% of seniors live in poverty20% of women live in poverty

# FOOD HARDSHIP - STATE RANK

Arizona ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the country for Food Hardship (FRAC)

Top 20 States for Food Hardship, 2012

State	Food Hardship Rate	Rank
Mississippi	24.6	1
Louisiana	24.5	2
West Virginia	24.2	3
Alabama	23.6	4
Arkansas	22.8	5
Tennessee	22.2	6
Georgia	22.0	7
Nevada	22.0	7
Texas	21.8	9
North Carolina	21.6	10
South Carolina	21.5	11
Florida	21.3	12
Delaware	21.2	13
Arizona	20.9	14
California	20.6	15
Oklahoma	20.6	15
Ohio	20.5	17
Indiana	20.4	18
Kentucky	20.3	19
Michigan	20.2	20

# MAP THE MEAL: FEEDING AMERICA

#### **CHILD FOOD INSECURITY BY STATE, 2012**

TABLE 09

State	Rank	Total Child Population (Under 18)*	Child Food-Insecurity Rate	Number of Children Living in Food-Insecure Households	Overall Food-Insecurity Rate
J.S. <sup>11</sup>		73,710,410	21.6%	15,898,000	15.9%
MM	1	515,848	29.2%	150,390	18.6%
MS	2	747,669	28.7%	214,720	22.3%
AZ	3	1,619,585	28.2%	456,760	17.8%
GA	4	2,495,747	28.1%	700,780	18.9%
WV	4	664,422	28.1%	186,380	16.8%
DC	6	109,452	28.0%	30,600	14.5%
AR	7	711,629	27.7%	196,950	19.4%
FL.	8	4,000,973	27.6%	1,103,850	17.9%
ΙX	9	6,981,175	27.4%	1,909,470	18.3%
OR	10	860,746	27.3%	235,410	16.7%

### **HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN ARIZONA?**

# The U.S. Census estimates that Arizona's population is about:

6.6 million

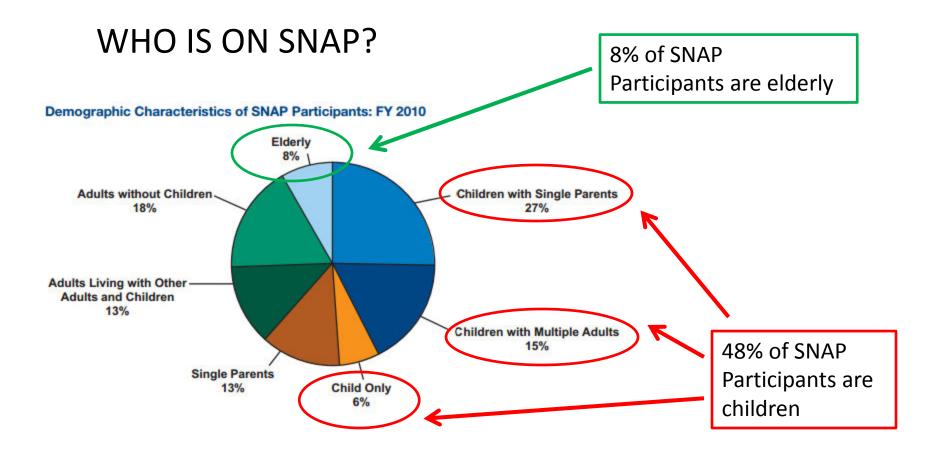
**HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE RECEIVING SNAP?** 

In March 2014, the number of people receiving SNAP was:

1,036,746 people

Of these, 509,376 were children.





http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/BuildingHealthyAmerica.pdf

# THE WORKING LANDSCAPE

#### IN ARIZONA...

7.6% unemployed (6.7% unemployed nationally)

38.9% of families are classified as working poor

24.9% of jobs are low wage jobs

# The New Face Of Food Stamps: Working-Age Americans



Posted: 01/26/2014 11:50 am EST

Updated: 01/27/2014 11:59 am EST

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/26/food-stamps\_n\_4669729.html



# MINIMUM WAGE

Minimum wage in AZ: \$7.90 \$7.90/hour X 40 hours/week = \$316/week gross \$316 X 4.3 = \$1358.80 monthly gross

24.9% of jobs are low wage jobs

# WHY SNAP?

# USDA: SNAP ELIGIBILITY INCOME RULES

(Oct. 1, 2013 through Sept. 30, 2014)

\$1358.80 Minimum wage job

Household Size	Gross monthly income (130 percent of poverty)	Net monthly income (100 percent of poverty)
1	\$1,245	\$ 958
2	1,681	1,293
3	2,116	1,628
4	2,552	1,963
5	2,987	2,298
6	3,423	2,633
7	3,858	2,968
8	4,294	3,303
Each additional member	+436	+335

## **HOW DOES SNAP IMPACT PEOPLE?**

- Long Term Benefits for Children and the Elderly:
  - Nutrition plays a significant role in child development:
    - Brain development
    - Academic achievement
  - Nutrition is connected to quality of life for the elderly
    - Live longer and stronger
    - Sharpen the mind
    - Feel better

## WHY SNAP?

- First line of defense against hunger & public health safety net
- Health benefits for children and elderly
- Help families & individuals become self-sufficient
  - SNAP recipients cut across racial, geographic, and social lines
- When added to income levels, SNAP helped lift 4 million people out of poverty in 2012
- Economic stimulus (\$5 SNAP = \$9 economic activity)

### WHY SNAP?

- \$5 SNAP = \$9 economic activity
- \$1 SNAP = \$1.80 economic activity
- SNAP benefits received in Arizona in February 2014 =\$119,062,036

# **Economic Activity/impact** =\$214,311,670

(\$119,062,036 X \$1.80)

# HOW DOES SNAP RELATE TO OTHER HUNGER PROGRAMS?

#### Further Cuts to Food Stamps Worry Local Food Bank Officials

#### Story by Laura Palmisano

December 3, 2013

It's been more than a month since food stamp recipients saw their benefits reduced.

About 220,000 people in Southern Arizona were affected, with a reduction of \$36 dollars a month for a family of four receiving the maximum benefit under the federal Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program, better know as food stamps.

SNAP saw an increase of funds under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009, but that boost expired on Nov. 1. This means the program will see \$11 billion in reductions between fiscal year 2014-2016.

Officials from the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona are concerned about further changes to the program as Congress considers more cuts to SNAP as part of the Farm Bill.

The Senate wants to cut \$4 billion over 10 years while the House wants to cut \$40 billion.

To put it in perspective, the reductions that occurred in November account for about 1.9 billion meals per year across the country," said Marco Liu, the food bank's advocacy and outreach director. "And, that's about half of what the entire food bank network under Feeding America provides in terms of emergency food."

Liu and his team help people sign up for SNAP. He said the food bank helped enroll more than 1,400 families in the program last year.

Liu said food bank SNAP clients are worried about having to choose between putting food on the table or paying their bills.

# Food Bank: SNAP Cuts Causing More Hunger in AZ

Public News Service - AZ | January 2014 | Download audio | Hunger/Food/Nutrition | Consumer Issues | Children's Issues | Budget Policy & Priorities | Poverty Issues | Livable Wages/Working Families | January 14, 2014



PHOTO: Volunteers fill emergency food boxes. The federal government's cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP and food stamps, are being felt by Arizona food banks. CREDIT: Hunger 101 AZ.

PHOENIX - The federal government's cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP and still often called food stamps, are being felt in Arizona. A 5 percent cut in SNAP benefits took effect in November, amounting to about \$36 per month for a family of four.

According to Jerry Brown, the director of public relations for St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, the reduction can mean many lost meals for those living on the edge of hunger.

"The amount of money that people receive in food stamps doesn't seem like a lot, but when it's all you have as far as a food budget for the month, any cuts at all are going to have an impact and we certainly saw that," he declared.

Brown said the food bank gets busier at the end of the month when people start to run low on SNAP benefits and rely more on emergency food boxes.

# **SNAP PARTICIPATION**

	October 2013	February 2014
# of Individuals Participating in SNAP	1,109,788	1,035,519
Average Payment/Person	\$124.63	\$114.98
# of Families	475,063	445,476
Average Payment/Family	\$291.16	\$267.27
Average Household size	2.34	2.32

The American Recover and Reinvestment Act expired in November 2013, cutting the amount of SNAP benefits per family.

# HOW MUCH DO PEOPLE RECEIVE?

In February 2014, the average recipient received \$114.98/ month.

\$114.98 / 30 days / 3 meals a day = \$1.28/ meal

# USDA'S NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

#### **Food Distribution**

- Commodity
   Supplemental Food
   Program (CSFP)
- Food Distribution
   Program on Indian
   Reservations (FDPIR)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

#### **Child Nutrition**

- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

#### WIC

- Farmers' Market
  Nutrition Program
  (FMNP)
- Senior Farmers'
   Market Nutrition
   Program (SFMNP)

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** 

# OF ALL OF USDA'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE STATES, SNAP IS USDA'S LARGEST PROGRAM

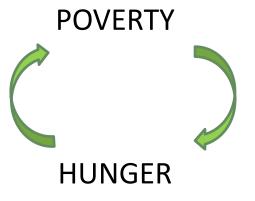
In fiscal year 2013, SNAP served an average of 47.6 million low income people <u>each month</u>

at a total cost of over \$76 billion dollars.

# **EMERGENCY SERVICES**



# SELF SUFFICIENCY





# **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN SNAP**

- Is SNAP the answer?
- Is SNAP part of the answer?

<u>Food Choice:</u> SNAP can be used to buy foods like fruits, vegetables, and meats at grocery stores, convenience stores, as well as farmers' markets. It can also be used to purchase seeds and plants that produce food.

Monthly Benefits and Renewals: SNAP is delivered monthly on a plastic EBT card that looks like a debit card.

<u>Entitlement Based:</u> SNAP is an entitlement program, which means that anyone who is eligible and applies can receive benefits. There is no limit on the number of individuals who can receive SNAP in Arizona state.

<u>SNAP Partnership:</u> The SNAP Partnership is a network of outreach and application assistors that help educate people about the SNAP program, as well as help individuals apply.

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

# THE SNAP PARTNERSHIP

ACAA is the lead agency for the SNAP Partnership, which is a network of 48 community based organizations working in Arizona State, on SNAP outreach and/or application assistance, committed to using a holistic approach to address hunger

#### The network has grown!

- 10 partners in FY 2011
- 15 partners in FY 2012
- 35 partners in FY 2013
- 48 partners in FY 2014.



# DES VISION

# **Mission**

The Arizona
Department of
Economic Security
promotes the safety,
well-being, and self
sufficiency of children,
adults, and families.

#### **Our Goals**

**Goal 1: Strengthen individuals and families** 

**Goal 2: Increase self-sufficiency** 

Goal 3: Collaborate with communities to increase capacity

Goal 4: Improve accountability through active performance-monitoring and increased transparency

Goal 5: Improve outcomes for Arizonans by creating a person-centered human services system

# **ACAA MISSION AND VISION**

# **Mission**

Advocating, Educating, and Partnering to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty

# Vision

Arizona: A Thriving Community for All

# WHO CAN PARTNER?

## **Non-profits** [501(c)(3)]

- Food banks
- Faith-based organizations
- Cultural Centers
- Health Centers
- Law Centers

#### **Government Agencies**

- County govt
- City govt

"Partners may be community or faith-based organizations, local SNAP offices, food banks or pantries, retailers, or other community organizations."

# **CURRENT LIST OF SNAP PARTNERS**

A New Leaf

**Arizona Justice Center** 

**Asian Pacific Community in Action** 

**Canaan Missionary Baptist Church** 

**Catholic Community Services – Pio Decimo** 

**Chandler Christian Community Center** 

Children's Action Alliance

**Civitan Foundation** 

**Coconino County Community Services** 

**Community food Bank of Southern Arizona** 

**Desert Mission Food Bank** 

**Empowerment Systems** 

**Flowing Wells Family Resource Center** 

**Green Valley Services** 

**Helping Families in Need** 

**ICM Food and Clothing Bank** 

**Islamic Community Center of Phoenix (ICCP)** 

**Keogh Health Connection** 

**LifeBridge Community Alliance** 

**Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest** 

**Medicare Health Benefits** 

**Mercy Housing Southwest** 

**Mountain Park Health Center** 

**NACOG** 

**Native American Community Health Center** 

**Neighborhood Ministries** 

**NOAH (Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health)** 

**Nogales Community Development Corporation** 

**North Country Health Care** 

**Northland Family Help Center** 

**Open Hands** 

**Phoenix Day/Health Links Program** 

**Phoenix Dream Center** 

**Phoenix Indian Center** 

**Pilgrim Rest Foundation** 

**Project Bridge** 

**Rio Vista Center** 

Save the Family

St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance

**Sunlife Family Help Center** 

**Sunset Community Health Center** 

**Tempe Community Action Agency** 

**Tempe Community Council** 

**United Community Health Center** 

**World Hunger Ecumenical Arizona Task Force** 

(WHEAT)

Women's Health Coalition of Arizona

**Yavapai Food Council** 

SO FAR IN THE FIRST HALF OF FFY14, OUR PARTNERS HAVE...

Assisted 8,043 individuals with using a phone to call DES

Provided eligibility information about SNAP at their agencies to 161,406 people

Informed 284,107 people about SNAP at Outreach Events

Gave 2,321 individuals paper applications

Assisted 30,568 households in applying for benefits online using HealthEArizona Plus

Helped process 13,719 new applications

# AS AN ORGANIZATION, YOU CAN...

- Network with other community groups to share information and make referrals
- Build trust with your clients and educate the community about myths and facts of SNAP
- Conduct outreach and education to help people make informed decisions about applying for SNAP
- Provide Application Assistance and help people begin the eligibility process (online or by paper)

# **CURRENT PARTNER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE**

- Educating clients (Intake): at food banks, health centers, church gatherings, people who come in office, etc.
- Educating clients (Outreach): at health fairs, church events, school fairs, Hopefest, "Disney Dance Parties"
- Making brochures of SNAP and contact information and handing them out at schools, in food boxes, in first aid kits to the homeless
- Networking and building community relationships with mom groups on facebook

# WHEAT: CHURCH BULLETIN

- Many of our clients have no idea how to begin the process of getting help through SNAP and other programs, especially when they are at the end of their paychecks for the month.
- Terri and her 3 children were such a family. She had read about the easy application process through her Church bulletin and liked the idea of being able to find out more information in her home church without being embarrassed. She had heard about long lines and waits, but this sounded different.
- Terri came to the church office where WHEAT's staff person, Kyra, awaited her with laptop in hand. At first hesitant, Terri began to share her story and bashfully explained that she had never done this before and didn't know what she needed to bring. Terri had been hanging onto a portable file—turns out she brought everything she thought she could possible need to the interview.

# WHEAT: CHURCH BULLETIN

Kyra was gentle and walked Terri through the initial pre-screening process through ArizonaSelfHelp.org. As a team, they proceeded through to the online application at HealthEArizonaPlus.gov. Terri was feeling more comfortable and was able to provide the documents needed to upload for a complete application. Kyra was excited too, as this was the first time that an applicant had all the required paperwork without returning at least once! The application was uploaded and sent in and within just a few days, Terri received a phone call for her phone interview.

Terri came back to the church office to let Kyra know how she had been approved, but sadly Kyra wasn't there that particular day. So instead, Terri left her a note with her phone number. The note said, "Thanks for treating me with respect, friend!"

Even though this doesn't happen every time, the opportunity to assist DES in the SNAP partnership is so very important to the core work of what WHEAT does— and we thank Terri for reminding us of this!

#### **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES: SENIORS**

Rose, a senior, was at a local library when she saw a flyer that caught her attention. "Seniors, you may qualify for community benefits call me for a home visit." She used the library phone and made the call.

Rose is 72 years old and is on a limited budget of \$764.00. With this money, she pays \$620.00 rent and \$45.00 for electric bills. She has disconnected her phone and purchases \$30.00 of food. She uses the remainder of her money for incidentals by shopping with coupons and looking for sales.

Rose walks with her walker to places. The walker had recently been broken, so she had not been able to get to places. Her Case Manager called a local agency and arranged for a new walker to be provided to her. The agency will also repair her broken walker and give it to someone else. Rose also qualifies for senior transportation and she will be able to travel on the bus with her walker.

#### **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES: SENIORS**

Rose didn't know that she could apply for Food Stamps, AHCCCS, Senior Housing and other services. Her Case Manager immediately applied for Food Stamps, AHCCSS and Senior Housing with her.

Rose now has a smile and soon she will have medical benefits, food so she can cook her meals, a light bill that she can pay and no longer walk but transportation.

"I am no longer a prisoner to my apartment," she says.

#### WHY COLLABORATION IS IMPORTANT

During a home visit Susie completed the online application with a woman who recently had a stroke. Susie notice that very little food was in the home. She contacted DES on behalf of the applicant to let us know that food needs were urgent. The following day she sent a second email stating our applicant was completely out of food.

DES was able to complete interview with a friend whom the applicant authorized DES to interview on her behalf. The application was approved and DES was able to apply an emergency process where by benefits are available on the EBT card the same day.

DES would not have had the opportunity to know the obstacles the applicant was facing concerning her health or immanent danger she was facing with having no food. Many medications cannot be taken without food and proper nutrition is vital when health is already compromised.

Network with a community Partner and set up a system of referrals

Contact Amanda Lee at alee@azcaa.org if you are interested!

Get educated about the SNAP program and talk to people about it. Become a resource! (Eligibility, myths/facts)



Visit <u>www.ArizonaSelfHelp.Org</u> to understand the resources available and help pre-screen

#### TRAININGS: ACAA

#### Arizona Self Help (http://www.arizonaselfhelp.org)

- Prescreening website that allows individuals to navigate the social services system to find out if they are eligible for up to 40 different benefits/ services
- Easy, Confidential, Free
- Available in English and Spanish
- Available 24/7/365
- Gives contact information by zip code

### TRAININGS: ACAA

Household ID: 234027

### Arizo Arizona Self Help Estimate of Potential Eligibility for February 5, 2014 3:58 p.m.

Pres	Print This Page	Help What Do I Do Now? Save and Quit	
serv	Program	Results Message	Phone
_	Food and Nutrition		
ben	Emergency Food	You are always eligible to receive emergency food assistance. See all emegency food providers in Arizona.	(800)445- 1914
Easy	Supplemental		
Ava	Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	You are likely to qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP). Based on your entries, your SNAP award is expected to be approximately \$160.  Download Application	(480)812- 2160
<ul><li>Ava</li><li>Give</li></ul>	Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	You are likely to qualify for the WIC program.	(800)252- 5942
GIV	Financial Benefits		
	Federal Child Tax Credit	You can benefit from the Child Tax Credit if you have qualifying dependent(s) and earned income.	(800)829- 3676
	<u>Federal Hope</u> <u>Tax Credit</u>	You can benefit from the Hope Tax Credit if you have a qualified student attending college or university this year or next.	(800)829- 3676
	<u>Federal</u> <u>Lifetime</u> <u>Learning Tax</u> <u>Credit</u>	You can benefit from the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit if you have a qualified student in a qualified university program this year or next year.	(800)829- 3676
	Individual Development Accounts (IDA)	You are likely to qualify for an Individual Development Account. This special program matches your savings dollars on a monthly basis to enable you to purchase an asset such as a first home, small business, or education. For national listings by state go to <a href="https://www.cfed.org">www.cfed.org</a>	
	Second Chance Banking	You can join the <u>Arizona Federal</u> credit union if you live, work, worship, or attend school in Maricopa County or Pinal County or if you are a family member of an existing member.	(800)523- 4603

Network with a community Partner and set up a system of referrals Contact Amanda Lee at alee@azcaa.org if you are interested!

Get educated about the SNAP program and talk to people about it. Become a resource!



Join the SNAP Partnership and apply for funding to do SNAP Outreach

www.azcaa.org/partnerships/snap

Visit www.ArizonaSelfHelp.Org to understand the resources available and help prescreen

#### WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO PARTNERS?

#### **Trainings**

- Arizona Self Help
- Health-e-Arizona Plus
- SNAP eligibility

**Outreach Materials** 

**Partner Hotline** 

**Partner Calls** 

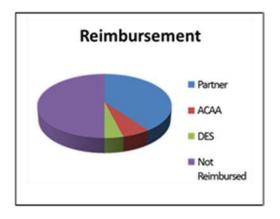
Funding – 40% reimbursement for allowable activities & expenses

#### **FUNDING: COST-REIMBURSEMENT MODEL**

# For every \$1 spent on allowable activities,

- Partners receive 40 cents
- ACAA receives 6 cents
- DES receives 4 cents
- 50 cents is not reimbursed

# FEDERAL DRAW DOWN MODEL



#### WHAT IS AN ALLOWABLE ACTIVITY?

# USDA defines which activities are Allowable. Examples of the most common Allowable Activities include:

- Eligibility prescreening (<u>www.arizonaselfhelp.org</u>)
- Application assistance (<u>www.healthearizonaplus.gov</u>)
- Providing help with scanning or faxing documents for applicants
- Providing a phone to call DES and/or complete telephonic interview
- Providing outreach on site or at events
- Training or assistance to other outreach organizations
- Distribution of SNAP outreach materials on site or in community
- Translation of materials and bilingual accommodation to convey eligibility requirements and assist persons with limited English proficiency during application

A fuller list may be found at:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Outreach\_Plan\_Guidance.pdf

#### ALLOWABLE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

#### Allowable administrative expenses also include:

- Salaries and benefits of personnel involved in outreach and administrative support
- Office equipment, supplies, postage, duplication costs and travel necessary to carry our project objectives
- Lease or rental costs
- Development and production of outreach materials when no other appropriate materials exist

A fuller list may be found at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Outreach\_Plan\_Guidance.pdf

#### SNAP PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION TIMELINE

- If interested in joining the partnership, join us for a webinar on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am for more details!
- In September, agencies will be notified of Partnership approval/disapproval by the USDA.
- Oct 1, 2014: Partnership for FFY15 begins

## **Application information can be found on:**

www.azcaa.org/partnerships/snap

# Thank you!

# **Any Questions?**



### CONTACT US

Action Association

## **Amanda Lee**

Outreach and Community

Development Manager

**Arizona Community Action Association** 

2700 North 3rd St., Suite 3040

Phoenix, AZ 85004

602-604-0640

alee@azcaa.org

www.azcaa.org

# **Donna Roberts**

**Hunger Relief Specialist** 

**Arizona Department of Economic Security** 

**Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility** 

**Hunger Relief Program** 

1789 W Jefferson Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85007

602-542-0304

droberts@azdes.gov

www.azdes.gov



