NATIONAL STUDY PLACES SAN DIEGO IN LIST OF METRO AREAS WITH HIGHEST NUMBERS OF FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN
Map the Meal Gap 2016 Shows San Diego Ranks 7th With 151,440 Children Facing Hunger

San Diego, CA — April 28, 2016 — A new study finds that 423,130 people, including 151,400 children, in San Diego County experience food insecurity, or the equivalent of 13.3 percent of San Diegans. *Map the Meal Gap 2016* results reveal that San Diego County ranks in the top seven metro areas with the highest number of children living in food insecure households.

Food insecurity is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. Using county data from the five-year period of 2010 to 2014, *Map the Meal Gap 2016* is the first *Map the Meal Gap* report with post-Great Recession county food-insecurity estimates.

Down less than one percent from last year, San Diego's food insecurity rate falls just below the aggregate state rate of 13.9 percent and national rate of 14.7 percent. The annual meal gap in San Diego remains high, with more than 75 million meals required to meet the need and an additional 5.1 million needed in Imperial County.

"*Map the Meal Gap* shares data about the prevalence of hunger in our community," said Al Brislain, CEO of Feeding America San Diego. "This information allows Feeding America San Diego to better understand the need and continue to work with partners, donors and community members to ensure children grow up with the nutrition they need to develop and thrive."

Map the Meal Gap 2016 also presented new data on hunger in Imperial Valley where 16.6 percent of the total population and 33 percent of children struggles with hunger. In 2012, FASD established a formal a partnership with the Imperial Valley Food Bank to support expanded hunger-relief efforts and address the staggering need in this community.

Other local key findings:
- highest local Congressional district food insecurity rate at 14.9 percent in District 51
- average cost of a meal is $3.22, higher than the national average of $2.89
- 24 percent of food insecure individuals are likely not eligible for federal nutrition programs

Map the Meal Gap 2016 uses data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and food price data and analysis provided by Nielsen (NYSE: NLSN), a global

provider of information and insights. The study, commissioned by Feeding America, is a detailed analysis of the nation's food insecurity.

The study is supported by founding sponsor The Howard G. Buffett Foundation, ConAgra Foods Foundation and Nielsen. The lead researcher is Dr. Craig Gundersen, Professor of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, Executive Director of the National Soybean Research Laboratory and a member of Feeding America's Technical Advisory Group. This is the sixth consecutive year that Feeding America has conducted the *Map the Meal Gap* study.

The *Map the Meal Gap 2016* interactive map allows policymakers, state agencies, corporate partners and individual advocates to develop integrated strategies to fight hunger on a community level.

Join the conversation about Map the Meal Gap 2016 on Twitter using #MealGap.

ABOUT FEEDING AMERICA SAN DIEGO
Established in 2007, Feeding America San Diego (FASD) is the leading hunger-relief organization in the county, providing 18.5 million meals within the last year, and the only Feeding America affiliate in the region. FASD provides food and resources to a network of 200 distribution partners serving 60,000 children, families and seniors each week. Focused on healthy food, education and advocacy, FASD is building a hunger-free and healthy San Diego through innovative programs and collaborative partnerships. To learn more about Feeding America San Diego and its hunger-relief initiatives, visit feedingamericasd.org.