

## Chapter 13

### Promoting Food Security

#### **Student assignments and activities designed to enhance learning and stimulate critical thinking.**

1. Read the poverty measure working paper entitled, “The Development of the Orshansky Poverty Thresholds and Their Subsequent History as the Official U.S. Poverty Measure” at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/povmeas/papers/orshansky.html>. Summarize the role that food cost has played in the development of the poverty thresholds.
2. Review Appendix D from the *Household Food Security in the United States, 2006* report at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err49/err49appD.pdf>. How do the food insecurity rates in your state differ from other states and the nation as a whole? How have rates changed over time? What might be some reasons for these trends?
3. On page 384-385 is the following statement, “Young children in U.S. households do not usually experience hunger unless hunger among adults reaches severe levels.” What are some reasons why children might be “protected” from experiencing hunger, even if living in households with low food security?
4. Use the Internet to determine the minimum wage in your state. Based on the most current annual poverty threshold for an individual under 65 years old (without children, see <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld.html>), how many hours per week must one work at minimum wage to make 100% of the federal poverty level? 130%? 185%? 200%? Interpret your results based on the federal food and nutrition programs reviewed in Chapter 13. (Remember, there are 52 weeks in a year.)
5. Refer to Box 13.4 (page 394). What is the maximum daily food stamp allotment a person can receive if they live in a household of four people (assuming 30 days per month)? What is the allotment per meal (assuming 3 meals per day)? What do these figures tell you about the Food Stamp Program?
6. Food stamps cannot be used to purchase alcoholic beverages, tobacco, hot foods and foods that will be eaten in the store, pet foods, and most non-food items (seeds are allowed). Are there any exceptions to these regulations? Given the high rates of obesity in the U.S., should “junk foods” be added to this list? Present arguments on both sides of the issue. (Refer to Question 9 from Chapter 10 for a related question regarding “junk food.”)

7. In addition to education, list and discuss other strategies that can be used to increase Food Stamp Program participation.

8. Section 124 of Public Law 108-265, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, calls for the implementation and evaluation of a demonstration expansion program in which the income eligibility limit for free school lunches and breakfasts is raised to 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines. This demonstration project is to be carried out in all or part of 5 states, including one largely rural state with a significant Native American population. Conduct an Internet search to determine the result of this project.

9. Find another example (not already listed in the text) of a farm-to-school program, school gardens program, or farm-to-college program in the United States. Write a case study about this program, including details about the impetus for change, implementation process, solutions to challenges/barriers, and successes.

10. Is a universal free breakfast worth the cost? Present arguments on both sides of the issue.

11. Given that breast milk is the optimal food for most infants, should women receiving WIC benefits be allowed to choose to formula feed? Present arguments on both sides of the issue.

12. Through P.L. 107-76, generally known as the 2002 Farm Bill, Congress authorized \$15 million annually for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) for FY 2003-2007. What provisions for SFMNP are authorized in the 2007 Farm Bill?

13. Determine the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) rating and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) recommendation for improvement for each of the government's major food assistance programs.

14. What is the maximum number of federal food and nutrition programs each of the following individuals can participate in? Provide the names of the programs he/she is eligible for, as well as the reason(s) for eligibility.

- 3-year-old female with anemia whose household income equals 125% of the poverty guideline
- 10-year-old male whose household income equals 175% of the poverty guideline
- 16-year-old pregnant female whose household income equals 100% of the poverty guideline
- 24-year-old male whose household income equals 150% of the poverty guideline
- 50-year-old female whose household income equals 130% of the poverty guideline
- 85-year-old male whose household income equals 120% of the poverty guideline