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WISCONSIN CITIES FACING LOOMING HUNGER CRISIS *Advocates across the state urge Governor Walker to act*

MILWAUKEE (April 11, 2016) – Hunger Task Force, Community Advocates Public Policy Institute and advocates from all across Wisconsin reach out to Governor Scott Walker to request aid for those struggling with hunger in Wisconsin. In a letter, signed by more than 25 hunger relief providers and religious and fraternal organizations, advocates request immediate relief on behalf of Wisconsin residents that are facing profound hunger, as over 30,453 people have become ineligible for federal food aid under the failed Food Stamp Employment and Training Program.

“Only Governor Walker can help us resolve this crisis. The job training program has not placed people in jobs, it’s only closed their FoodShare case. We are spending millions in taxpayer funds on a government boondoggle,” stated Sherrie Tussler, Executive Director.

“Hunger is not a political football. It’s a real struggle for families in these communities where the economic recovery lags. Governor Walker can and should help by immediately requesting this waiver.” stated Mike Bare, Research and Program Coordinator at Community Advocates Public Policy Institute.

Governor Walker can repeal time-limited FoodShare in 20 counties and 10 cities in Wisconsin. Labor Surplus Areas across the state have higher levels of unemployment and few new jobs created, making it difficult or impossible for all low-income workers to find work.

“All the Governor needs to do to solve this problem is submit a letter to the USDA. Tens of thousands of Wisconsinites will be helped and a hunger crisis can be averted in the cities of Appleton, Milwaukee, Beloit and Racine. People living in rural counties in central Wisconsin and Northern Wisconsin, where both food pantries and jobs are scarce, also need this immediate help from Governor Walker,” Tussler added.

Under welfare reform, able-bodied people ages 18-49 without exemptions are required to work to receive their FoodShare benefits. If they do not enroll and participate in the mandatory program, they lose food assistance for three years. ResCare, the company hired to help people in Milwaukee, has not helped people but instead directed the end of food assistance at a rate of 57% of those referred to the program, and placed only 11.6% of those referred to workforce training.

“An end to a recession should result in easier work for ResCare. While gobbling up taxpayer-funded job training and employment funds, their track record of job placement is defined by continuous failure. The

Governor should scrap the contract and find a qualified organization that would actually help people find work,” said Tussler.

Hunger Task Force believes that the best way out of poverty is through employment. The job training and placement promise has failed in the City of Milwaukee and is causing widescale hunger that can easily be resolved by thoughtful leadership.

Today, more than 25 organizations urge Governor Walker to take action.

Read the Letter Here.

Hunger Task Force believes that every person has a right to adequate food obtained with dignity. Hunger Task Force works to prevent hunger and malnutrition by providing food to people in need today and by promoting social policies to achieve a hunger free community tomorrow.

Community Advocates has not wavered in its commitment to help low-income Milwaukeeans meet their most basic needs – including safe and affordable housing, adequate healthcare, and reliable heat and other utilities since 1976. Beyond basic needs advocacy, they also provide case management, advocacy services to individuals seeking Social Security Disability benefits, and services for individuals and families with domestic violence, substance addiction, and mental health issues.