

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Jessica Callahan  
media@alfoodbanks.org

**Alabama Food Bank Association Receives Critical Investment from  
National Anti-Hunger Organization**

*Grant is part of a new wave of gifts from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger to seed and support grassroots anti-hunger infrastructure*

**Alabama** — As the country continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alabama Food Bank Association is one of 52 organizations selected to receive funding through a critical \$2.5 million investment from [MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger](#). The national anti-hunger organization's partnership grants will help stem the tide in persistent food insecurity that was exacerbated by pandemic-related shutdowns.

"The Alabama Food Bank Association is grateful to MAZON for their tremendous support of Alabama communities. Our strong partnership with MAZON has paved the way for policy advancements and coalition building on a local, statewide and national scale." said Laura Lester, Executive Director of The Alabama Food Bank Association. "The impact of COVID-19 on Alabamians has been tremendous. This investment from MAZON will help us address the increased need in our state due to the pandemic, helping us to reach those hit hardest."

Alabama Food Bank Association will use the grant funding to support the Alabama Food Bank Association's eight members. This [partnership grant](#) is part of MAZON's Emerging Advocacy Fund, a national initiative to increase or sustain staff capacity at anti-hunger organizations across the country to advance long-term solutions to hunger in local communities. The latest round of partnership grants from MAZON increases its five-year giving total through the fund to more than \$6.4 million.

"We are witnessing an inflection point for the hunger crisis in the United States and around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic nearly doubled the number of people within the United States facing food insecurity, and local organizations have been on the front lines of emergency food assistance while also working for sustainable solutions," said **Abby J. Leibman, President and CEO of MAZON**. "Since its founding in 1985, MAZON has been committed to addressing food insecurity in the United States through policy change. We are particularly proud of the pioneering role we've played in helping to build a strong and resilient anti-hunger advocacy infrastructure in diverse regions across the United States. MAZON is proud to lift up and empower local organizations in 13 of the 15 most food-insecure states in the country, and we look forward to seeing these organizations fight for the structural change we need to end hunger in our communities."

In Alabama, 11% of people are experiencing hunger daily. Nationwide, the COVID pandemic and related shutdowns [have doubled](#) the number of people experiencing hunger in the United States from 40 million to 80 million.

**Recipients of MAZON's [Emerging Advocacy Fund](#) grants include:**

- Alabama Arise, (Montgomery, Ala.)
- Alabama Food Bank Association, (Huntsville, Ala.)
- Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, (Little Rock, Ark.)
- Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, (Little Rock, Ark.)
- Center for Rural Affairs, (Lyons, Neb.)
- Children's Action Alliance, (Phoenix, Ariz.)
- Feeding Indiana's Hungry, (Indianapolis, Ind.)
- Feeding Kentucky, (Frankfort, Ky.)
- Feeding Louisiana, (Baton Rouge, La.)
- Food Justice Lab/ West Virginia University Research Corp., (Morgantown, W.Va.)
- Good Shepherd Food Bank, (Auburn, Maine)
- Hunger-Free Oklahoma, (Tulsa, Okla.)
- Indy Hunger Network, (Indianapolis, Ind.)
- Kansas Action for Children, (Topeka, Kan.)
- Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, (Lawrence, Kan.)
- Kentucky Center for Economic Policy / Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, (Berea, Ky.)
- Kentucky Equal Justice Center, (Lexington, Ky.)
- Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands (Nashville, Tenn.)
- Louisiana Budget Project, (Baton Rouge, La.)
- Mississippi Center for Justice, (Jackson, Miss.)
- Missouri Budget Project, (St. Louis, Mo.)
- MomsRising, (Raleigh, N.C.)
- Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law & Public Interest, (Lincoln, Neb.)
- North Carolina Alliance for Health, (Raleigh, N.C.)
- North Carolina Justice Center, (Raleigh, N.C.)
- Oklahoma Policy Institute, (Tulsa, Okla.)
- Open Sky Policy Institute, (Lincoln, Neb.)
- Operation Food Search, (St. Louis, Mo.)
- Preble Street, (Portland, Maine)
- Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, (Flowood, Miss.)
- Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, (Oklahoma City, Okla.)
- Tennessee Justice Center, (Nashville, Tenn.)
- West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, (Charleston, W.Va.)
- West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition, (Charleston, W.Va.)
- William E. Morris Institute for Justice, (Phoenix, Ariz.)

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**About The Alabama Food Bank Association**

The Alabama Food Bank Association works to end hunger by assisting the food bank network in obtaining more food and funds, fostering public awareness of the food banks' mission, and

creating partnerships to help alleviate hunger in Alabama. Every day, the eight food banks in Alabama partner with a statewide network of food donors, emergency food pantries, and soup kitchens to provide food to hungry people. Fighting hunger requires significant funding for every step of the process—from acquiring food, to storing the food, to transporting the food to people in need. Learn more at [alfba.org](http://alfba.org).

**About MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger:**

Inspired by Jewish values and ideals, MAZON is a national advocacy organization working to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the United States and Israel. For more information on MAZON, please visit [mazon.org](http://mazon.org).