



SOLUTIONS BASED ON SCIENCE AND THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

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## Emerging Research Studies

We are constantly learning from the experts we work with about what it will take to end hunger. By listening and following their lead, we are expanding our work in two key areas: microfinance and exposure to violence and stress. Check back to this section for updates on these projects and other new ideas.

### Microfinance/TANF Demonstration Project

In the current economy, job opportunities are limited, and we know that many of the jobs available don't pay a living wage. This leaves people at risk for hunger. Microfinance is a term used to describe bringing financial services to people who are low-income or otherwise don't have access to these services. We are looking into whether providing people with access to banking, loans and other financial resources could help to end hunger. For more information about this project, [click here](#) <sup>[1]</sup>.

### Violence, Trauma and Stress

We have learned from our work with Witnesses to Hunger and other research that many of the families we work with have experienced traumatic events such as child abuse, sexual assault and community violence. Many have also experienced stress such as homelessness and hunger throughout their lives. In order to create a supportive environment for those who have experienced trauma, we are integrating the [Sanctuary Model](#)® <sup>[2]</sup> into our work.

We are also doing continued research on the connections between childhood stress and adult hunger and financial struggles. We are currently collecting data in a study called: *Toxic Stress over the Life Course: A community-based, participatory investigation on causes of child hunger*. This qualitative research study, begun in the summer of 2011, is intended to deepen our understanding of childhood stress and trauma as they relate to hunger and financial insecurity. This research is based on what we learned from the Witnesses to Hunger study, and is being conducted with 40 participants from Philadelphia.

Additionally, we are currently collecting data for a study called: *Childhood Stress: A Qualitative Analysis of the intergenerational circumstances of child hunger*. This study, funded by the USDA through the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research. The objective of this study is to build on our strong preliminary evidence that adult caregivers' adverse childhood experiences are associated with food security status among their young children. Specifically, the more adverse childhood experiences adult caregivers had, the more likely it is that they reported their young children were low or very low food secure. With a stratified random sample of 30 caregivers of young children under age 4 who reported low food security or very low food security at the household level, this study proposes to investigate how stress-related individual and household characteristics are associated with the intergenerational transmission of child food insecurity or hunger.

**Source URL:** <http://www.centerforhungerfreecommunities.org/our-research/emerging-research-studies>

#### Links:

[1] <http://www.centerforhungerfreecommunities.org/our-projects/microfinance-demonstration-project>

[2] <http://www.sanctuaryweb.com/>