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**The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi 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*

**Flowood, MS –** Asthe country continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi is one of 52 organizations to receive funding through a critical $2.5 million investment from [MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger](http://mazon.org). The national anti-hunger organization’s partnership grants will help stem the tide in persistent food insecurity that was exacerbated by pandemic-related shutdowns.

“With food insecurity being a continuing problem in Mississippi, exacerbated by the on-going COVID-19 challenges faced by our most vulnerable populations, The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi is excited with the furtherance of our partnership with MAZON. We have worked with MAZON for the past four years and have benefited from the level of generosity, professionalism and caring they bring to alleviating food insecurity in our state, said **Sandra Shelson, Executive Director of The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi**.

The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi will use the grant funding to provide technical and financial assistance to communities hardest hit by food insecurity by creating or expanding farmers markets, and to provide aid to colleges and universities addressing food insecurity on their campuses. This [partnership grant](https://mazon.org/what-we-do/partnership-grants/) 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 Mississippi, approximately 20 percent of the population are experiencing hunger daily. Nationwide, the COVID pandemic and related shutdowns [have doubled](https://mazon.org/hunger-in-america/) the number of people experiencing hunger in the United States from 40 million to 80 million.

**Recipients of MAZON’s** [**Emerging Advocacy Fund**](https://mazon.org/what-we-do/partnership-grants/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 Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi**

The mission of The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi is to provide educational information and awareness about the impact of tobacco on Mississippi and to improve the culture of health in Mississippi by applying lessons learned in tobacco prevention to other leading causes of death and disease impacting our State and Nation.

**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](https://mazon.org/).