



September 29, 2025

The Honorable Brooke L Rollins  
Secretary of Agriculture  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

On behalf of the iaedp Foundation and in solidarity with our colleagues across the eating disorders and broader medical communities, we are writing to express our **concern regarding the recent decision to cancel the USDA's annual Food Insecurity Survey and place the survey's lead researchers on leave.** We request that the Survey be restored and allowed to continue its essential role.

The annual Food Insecurity Survey has long provided essential data that informs public policy, guides researchers, and enables community partners to identify and respond to the needs of individuals and families who are food insecure. Its absence will not only create a dangerous gap in national data but will also hinder the ability of organizations across the country to effectively serve their communities. **This decision will ultimately harm the very individuals who rely on these systems of support,** and it will have a direct impact on our work within the eating disorders field, where food insecurity has been recognized as a key risk factor. **Food insecurity has been identified as one of the most important factors** contributing to both the onset and the intractability of eating disorders.<sup>1, 2</sup>

**Food insecurity affects urban and rural communities alike.** The annual survey has been a critical tool in understanding and addressing these challenges. At a time when collaboration and data-driven solutions are needed most, eliminating this survey undercuts both.

We respectfully request that the USDA reverse this decision and ensure that the Food Insecurity Survey continues, so that policymakers, researchers, and community partners can rely on accurate data to inform their efforts in addressing hunger and its consequences.

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<sup>1</sup> Hazzard VM, Loth KA, Hooper L, Becker CB. Food Insecurity and Eating Disorders: a Review of Emerging Evidence. *Curr Psychiatry Rep.* 2020 Oct 30;22(12):74. doi: 10.1007/s11920-020-01200-0. PMID: 33125614; PMCID: PMC7596309.

<sup>2</sup> Loth KA, Wall M, Zhang Z, Larson N, Hazzard VM, Barry MR, Neumark-Sztainer D. Food insecurity and disordered eating: Associations among adults with and without children. *Appetite.* 2025 Nov 1;215:108226. doi: 10.1016/j.appet.2025.108226. Epub 2025 Jul 19. PMID: 40691971; PMCID: PMC12403230.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Organizations

The iaedp Foundation  
Kentucky Eating Disorder Council  
Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED)  
The Academy for Eating Disorders  
The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action  
The Missouri Eating Disorders Council  
The National Eating Disorders Association  
The National Alliance of Eating Disorders

Medical Facilities

Center for Change  
Esperanza Eating Disorders Center  
The Renfrew Center  
UC San Diego Health Eating Disorders Center for Treatment and Research

Individuals

S. Bryn Austin, ScD  
Director  
Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED)

Carolyn Black Becker, PhD, ABPP  
Past President of the Academy for Eating Disorders

Kara Christensen Pacella, Ph.D.

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Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology  
Affiliate Faculty, Virginia Tech Child Study Center  
Virginia Tech

Abbey Griffith, Owner & Founder, Clarity Fitness

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Cheri A. Levinson, PhD  
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Associate Professor  
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University of Minnesota Medical School

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CEO & Executive Director  
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Marisol Perez, PhD, FAED

Priscilla Rumph, MS, RD, CSSD, CEDS-C

Abby Sarrett-Cooper, MA, LPC, CEDS

Eva Trujillo Chi Vacuán, MD, FAED, CEDS, FAAP, Fiaedp  
President, iaedp Foundation  
Past President, Academy for Eating Disorders  
CEO, Comenzar de Nuevo

Septiembre 29, 2025

A la Honorable Brooke L. Rollins  
Secretaria de Agricultura  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Estimada Secretaria Rollins,

En nombre de la iaedp Foundation y en solidaridad con nuestros colegas de los campos de los trastornos de la conducta alimentaria y de la comunidad médica en general, nos dirigimos a usted para expresar nuestra **preocupación ante la reciente decisión de cancelar la Encuesta Anual sobre Inseguridad Alimentaria del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA) y de suspender de sus funciones a los investigadores principales responsables de dicho estudio**. Por lo que solicitamos que esta Encuesta sea restaurada para que continúe con su papel fundamental.

La Encuesta Anual sobre Inseguridad Alimentaria ha proporcionado durante mucho tiempo datos esenciales que orientan la formulación de políticas públicas, guían a los investigadores y permiten a los socios comunitarios identificar y responder a las necesidades de las personas y familias que se encuentran en situación de inseguridad alimentaria. Su ausencia no solo generará una peligrosa brecha en los datos nacionales, sino que también obstaculizará la capacidad de las organizaciones en todo el país para atender de manera eficaz a sus comunidades. **Esta decisión, en última instancia, perjudicará a las mismas personas, incluidos niños/niñas, que dependen de estos sistemas de apoyo** y tendrá un impacto directo en nuestro trabajo en el ámbito de los trastornos de la conducta alimentaria, donde la inseguridad alimentaria ha sido reconocida como un factor de riesgo clave. **La inseguridad alimentaria ha sido identificada como uno de los factores** más importantes que contribuyen tanto a la aparición como a la persistencia de los trastornos.<sup>3, 4</sup>

**La inseguridad alimentaria afecta por igual a las comunidades urbanas y rurales.** La encuesta anual ha sido una herramienta fundamental para comprender y abordar estos desafíos. En un momento en que la colaboración y las soluciones basadas en datos son más necesarias que nunca, la eliminación de esta encuesta menoscaba a ambas.

Solicitamos respetuosamente que el USDA revierta esta decisión y garantice que la Encuesta sobre Inseguridad Alimentaria continúe, de modo que los responsables de la formulación de políticas públicas, los investigadores y los socios comunitarios puedan

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<sup>3</sup> Hazzard VM, Loth KA, Hooper L, Becker CB. Food Insecurity and Eating Disorders: a Review of Emerging Evidence. *Curr Psychiatry Rep.* 2020 Oct 30;22(12):74. doi: 10.1007/s11920-020-01200-0. PMID: 33125614; PMCID: PMC7596309.

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basarse en datos precisos para orientar sus esfuerzos en la lucha contra el hambre y sus consecuencias.

Gracias por su atención a este asunto urgente.

Atentamente,

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