

2025 Community Impact Report: *Food, Insecure* Screenings Across Indiana

Updated September 2025

Project Overview

Food, Insecure is a 30-minute documentary designed to raise awareness of the root causes of hunger in Indiana and to spark community conversations that lead to systemic change. Building on the momentum of its predecessor—*The Working Hungry*, a regional Emmy-nominated film—*Food, Insecure* expands the conversation to consider food insecurity not only as a food access issue, but as a workforce, economic, and equity challenge.

Through powerful personal stories and insights from experts, the film challenges myths about hunger and highlights the structural barriers that keep working families food insecure.

Screening Activity and Reach

- **Total Screenings (as of September 2025):** More than **90 screenings completed or scheduled** statewide—with more anticipated.
- **Venues:** Screenings have been hosted in a wide range of settings, including:
 - Churches, universities, libraries, nonprofit organizations
 - Community centers, private businesses, and legislative forums
- **Audience Size:** Average attendance has ranged from **30–50 people** per screening, with many including:
 - Policymakers, educators, nonprofit leaders, healthcare professionals, business owners, and local residents

Key Takeaways from Screenings

1. Deeper Understanding of Systemic Drivers

- **90%+** of respondents said the film deepened their understanding of **systemic causes** of food insecurity, such as:
 - Inadequate wages
 - Benefits cliffs
 - High cost of living
 - Lack of accessible resources
- Audiences often cited the **myth-busting elements** and **authentic stories** of working families as most impactful.

2. Commitment to Action

- **84%** of respondents said they were “**very likely**” to support **policy solutions or systems-level change** following the screening.
- Viewers expressed a shift in mindset—from charity to justice—and were inspired to pursue long-term advocacy.

3. Broad Appeal Across Sectors

- **Faith Communities:** Integrated the film into mission-driven discussions on justice and outreach
- **Business Leaders:** Explored connections between food insecurity and workforce stability (e.g. at 16 Tech's Business Leaders screening)
- **Legislators:** Participated in screenings such as the Indiana General Assembly breakfast, fostering bipartisan dialogue and awareness

Resources Provided to Hosts To support screenings and drive action, the following tools were made available via workinghungry.org:

- **Discussion & Screening Guide** to facilitate thoughtful conversation
- **Screening Tips Webinar** for successful event planning
- **“Taking Action” One-Pager** offering concrete next steps in advocacy, employer engagement, and relationship-building
- **Survey Tools** for audience feedback and community insights

Emerging Themes

- **Widespread Misunderstanding:** Many viewers were surprised to learn that food insecurity affects large numbers of full-time workers, college students, and caregivers.
- **Desire for Localized Action:** Communities are eager to translate awareness into tangible change—often using the film as a springboard.
- **Appetite for Systemic Solutions:** Attendees consistently voiced interest in upstream interventions—fair wages, improved benefits structures, and better social safety nets.

Food, Insecure is more than just a film—it is a catalyst for grassroots action, policy conversations, and systems change. With over 80 screenings and thousands of Hoosiers engaged, the momentum is growing. Communities across Indiana are embracing this project as a tool to challenge assumptions, strengthen partnerships, and move from food relief toward **food justice**.

Find or host a screening: www.workinghungry.org/screening-calendar