



Cor Unum Meal Center, 118 South Broadway, Lawrence, MA 01843  
978.688.6900 [www.corunummealcenter.org](http://www.corunummealcenter.org)

## **FACTS ABOUT HUNGER**

Lawrence, Massachusetts, is one of the poorest cities in the United States, and is the poorest in Massachusetts. With a population of approximately 70,000 people, 72 percent of whom are Hispanic, 28 percent of the people of Lawrence live below the poverty line. Of children under age 18 in Lawrence, 38 percent live in households below the poverty line, as do 22 percent of people age 65 and older.

The combination of economic poverty and an unusually expensive housing market leaves many people in Lawrence without enough money to adequately feed themselves.

The majority of those who are hungry are members of families who work and do not earn enough income to pay for both housing and food. Approximately 75 percent of school-age children in Lawrence qualify for government-subsidized food programs – meaning that three out of four children in Lawrence are at risk for hunger.

In Lawrence, thousands of men, women, and children do not have enough to eat. Without having enough to eat, children are unable to learn in school. Families are unable to break cycles of tension and violence. Young men and women are unable to reject the money offered to them through prostitution and illegal drug sales. People of all ages are unable to resist the numbing effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

If all people are created equal, and if all people have the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, much must be done to feed the hungry in Lawrence, Massachusetts.