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Your Update from AgeOptions

February 2019

## AgeOptions Is Featured in National Story About Food Insecurity among Older Adults

When Americans think about food insecurity, older adults are not the first demographic that comes to mind, a story by Next Avenue, an online news service that is part of the PBS system, posits. Yet, the writer points out, one in 12 older adults is food insecure, a 45 percent increase over 2001. While poverty would seem the likely cause, older adults above the poverty line may experience food insecurity because of a variety of life challenges, the story states.



Food insecurity and social isolation among older adults are issues AgeOptions focuses on, and Diane Slezak, AgeOptions president and chief executive officer, was interviewed for the story. Diane and the director of the U.S. Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion Programs talk about the reasons older adults may forego assistance in the story that was featured in the January Next Avenue newsletter and on some PBS station websites.

Read the full story on [Next Avenue](#) or [Twin Cities \(Minnesota\) PBS](#)

In addition to addressing the issue of food insecurity and its causes, the story features AgeOptions' new program with Rush University Medical Center and Oak Street Health to improve links between health care providers and food-assistance services. AgeOptions was one of five organizations nationwide to receive a two-year grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living to support innovations in nutrition programs and services. The project aims to increase referrals from health care providers to nutrition programs and increase patient access

**AgeOptions.**

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to and utilization of nutrition, programs, benefit programs and evidence-based wellness programs.