

Feeding America Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Priorities

The Feeding America network of more than 200 food banks, 21 statewide food bank associations, and over 60,000 faith-based and charitable agency partners, including food pantries and meal programs, helped provide 5.2 billion meals to tens of millions of people in need last year. Today, many food banks are struggling to meet unprecedented levels of demand while facing increased costs for purchasing and transporting food. Three-quarters of Feeding America network food banks have reported increased or steady demand for food assistance in recent months—a level of need that is increasing due to the nationwide termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotments effective as of March 2023.

Federal nutrition programs are our nation's most effective response to food insecurity. They are the essential foundation for individuals and families with limited resources to access nutritious foods when they fall on hard times. Feeding America urges Congress to partner with us to increase opportunity for the people we serve while strengthening and improving federal nutrition programs.

Quick Facts About Food Bank Food Supply

- Food banks have increased food purchases by more than 20% year-over-year due to heightened need and a decrease in the amount of food received from donations and the federal government.
- Food prices are 10% higher year-over-year as well, impacting food banks' ability to purchase food and families' ability to make ends meet.
- Food banks purchased more than 1.3 billion pounds of food from July 2020 to June 2021—an increase of 58% from the previous year. From July 2021 to June 2022, food banks purchased nearly 1.2 billion pounds of food.
- Food banks face additional pressure if the food they distribute is perishable, leading to increased storage, transportation and distribution costs.
- The most requested food product in the Feeding America food bank network is refrigerated or frozen protein foods, like meat and poultry. Distributing these foods requires greater supply chain infrastructure.

Feeding America Appropriations Priorities

Fully fund federal nutrition programs in the fiscal year 2024 appropriations bill.

- Congress must protect The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and other critical mandatory spending programs, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and child nutrition programs, in the FY 2024 appropriations legislation to ensure they remain a resource for millions of Americans experiencing food insecurity.



Support the work of America's charitable food system by providing full funding—\$100 million—for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) storage and distribution account.

- TEFAP storage and distribution funding is vital in assisting food banks and other organizations with the costs of storing, transporting and distributing foods to people across the country.
- In the last several years, Congress has appropriated these critical funds at less than the fully authorized level of \$100 million annually—leaving food banks to cover the difference.
- Congress provided \$92 million for TEFAP storage and distribution funding for fiscal year 2023.

Invest \$15 million to fully fund the TEFAP Rural Infrastructure Grants Program to offset capital, infrastructure and operating costs of rural and under-resourced food banks.

- This funding would help address significant cold storage and transportation capacity shortages that are affecting the ability of food banks and other food distribution organizations to store and distribute U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodity foods.
- Chronic underfunding of TEFAP storage and distribution and lack of funding for the TEFAP Rural Infrastructure Grants Program delays much-needed capital investments and leaves charitable food organizations with inadequate numbers of often aging, unreliable and inefficient delivery vehicles and cold storage equipment.

Provide \$390 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to ensure this discretionary program can maintain its caseload to help meet the needs of seniors facing hunger.

- CSFP provides monthly food assistance to seniors with low incomes. The program is designed to help older adults access the food they need to maintain good health, supplementing their diets with a monthly package of healthy USDA commodity foods. The current funding provides monthly nutritious food packages to 760,547 seniors with low incomes.

Provide \$6.3 billion for the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program to continue the longstanding bipartisan commitment to serve all projected program participants.

- This increase in funding would help ensure the needs of new WIC participants are met and would support continued investments in modernizing WIC infrastructure, technology and customer experience.

Questions? Please contact policy@feedingamerica.org.

