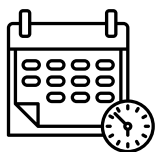


### REDUCE HUNGER & IMPROVE NUTRITION

Texas has the second-highest rate of food insecurity in the nation. To address this urgent issue, Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) is advancing legislative priorities aimed at reducing hunger and improving nutrition. As a member of Feeding Texas—a network of 20 food banks serving all 254 counties—and in partnership with the Texas Food Policy Roundtable (TFPR), a group of over 80 organizations committed to ending hunger, TAFB is working to ensure that our neighbors have access to nutritious food. To increase access to food and improve health outcomes, the Texas Legislature should:

#### Streamline SNAP 6-Month Eligibility Checks



6-month periodic reporting is a proven tool to reduce workload and administrative costs, enhance program integrity, and systemically fix our state's current backlog of SNAP applications.

#### Implement Summer EBT



1 in 4 Texas children experience hunger, which spikes in the summer because millions of children lost access to school meals. Summer EBT is a new program that would provide low-income families with children \$120 in food benefits during the summer.

#### Improve Health Outcomes with Nutritious Food



Food-insecure Medicaid beneficiaries are more likely to develop diet-related illnesses. A streamlined Medicaid reimbursement model that integrates food bank services into our healthcare system would enable doctors to prescribe healthy food, improve health outcomes, and reduce state healthcare costs.

#### Modernize the Eligibility System



System errors and glitches within TIERS, the system that underpins SNAP, Medicaid, and TANF, have led to application processing delays and errors. We support fully funding HHSC's LAR Exceptional Item Request #2 to permanently fix these problems.