



Feeding America is a nationwide network of 200 member food banks that serves all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. As the largest hunger-relief charity in the United States, the Feeding America network of food banks provides food assistance to an estimated 46.5 million Americans in need each year, including 12 million children and 7 million seniors.



Last year, Feeding America distributed 3.9 billion pounds of food, including 900 million pounds of fresh produce.

While in the past much of this was nonperishable foods, food banks now distribute much more fresh produce, meat, and other perishable foods to clients. This has resulted in higher storage and distribution costs for the food bank network.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): TEFAP helps food banks provide nutritious food to low-income Americans in need of short-term hunger relief in partnership with local pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters. On average, TEFAP provides 20% of the food Feeding America distributes and serves as the foundation for much of what our food banks distribute to clients.

TEFAP in the 2014 Farm Bill:

- \$270 million in mandatory funding established by the Farm Bill, \$49 million in administrative funding
- The 2014 Farm Bill included an additional \$205 million over 10 years for TEFAP to help food banks and other emergency food providers provide nutritious food to people in need.

Fiscal Year	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
TEFAP (\$)	\$50m	\$40m	\$20m	\$15	\$15m	\$16m	\$16m	\$16m	\$17m
TEFAP Meals	58 m	47 m	25 m	20 m	20 m	22 m	22 m	22 m	25 m

Strong Funding for TEFAP More Important than Ever Before:

- With millions of Americans remaining in need of assistance, Feeding America food banks are depending on the additional TEFAP funding provided by the 2014 Farm Bill to meet demand. Yet, if an anomaly is not provided in the Continuing Resolution being debated by Congress right now, the TEFAP increases would not happen since the CR is based on funding from 2014, before TEFAP funding was increased by the Farm Bill.
- Food banks are a growing and crucial component of the coping strategies that individuals in need turn to in order to secure food for themselves and their families, with many clients returning to their emergency providers on an ongoing bases, reflecting persistent need. Many clients are dealing with underemployment as the economy recovers, and are returning to work for fewer hours and pay. While mid-wage occupations constituted 60 percent of recession losses, they account for only 22 percent of recovery growth. By contrast low-wage occupations made up 21 percent of recession job losses, but they represent 58 percent of recovery growth.

LEGISLATIVE ASK:

Please support \$324 million in TEFAP funding in the Fiscal Year 2015 Continuing Resolution and ensure the CR contains an anomaly to provide the Farm Bill TEFAP increase to food banks during the timeframe the CR funds.