

**FARM BILL:**

# Help End Hunger in our Community

The farm bill is federal legislation that governs many nutrition and agriculture programs, and it is up for renewal. This legislation allocates funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Together these programs help to bridge the food gap for millions of families and individuals facing hunger across the country.

## Feeding America urges Congress to support and strengthen our nation's nutrition and agriculture programs in the next farm bill.

### ① Understand the Scale of Hunger in America

- Hunger exists in every county, parish and borough in the United States. More than 47 million people, including nearly 14 million children, face hunger in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
- As grocery bills and other costs of living continue to rise, more households are turning to food banks to meet their needs.
  - 49 million people turned to the charitable food sector for help in 2022.<sup>2</sup>
  - In 2022, food prices increased by 9.9%. In 2023, food prices increased by 5.8%.<sup>3</sup>
  - A recent survey found that 82% of likely voters are concerned about high food prices.<sup>4</sup>

### ② See the Local Impact of TEFAP and SNAP

TEFAP and SNAP work together to help ensure people in our community can put food on the table every day.

In a recent survey, 93% of likely voters said that TEFAP is an important program.<sup>5</sup>

**TEFAP** helped the Feeding America network distribute 1.22 billion pounds of food in 2023.<sup>6</sup>



**SNAP** helped more than 42 million people access nutritious foods in 2023.<sup>7</sup>

1 USDA Economic Research Service, [Household Food Security in the United States in 2023](#) (September 2024)

2 Feeding America, ["Charitable Food Assistance Participation in 2023"](#) (June 2023)

3 USDA Economic Research Institute, [Food Price Outlook](#) (January 2024)

4, 5 Feeding America, ["Feeding America Poll Shows Majority of Voters Want Government to do More to Address Food Insecurity"](#) (November 2023)

6 Feeding America Fiscal Year 2023 estimate

7 USDA Food and Nutrition Service, [SNAP State Level Participation & Benefits](#) (January 2024)

### 3 Renew the Farm Bill with Investments

## Strengthening federal food and nutrition programs helps ensure that no one in our country goes hungry. Here are recommended investments for both TEFAP and SNAP.

#### TEFAP



**Double funding for TEFAP food purchases.** This will help ensure food banks can serve everyone who comes through their doors, and it will support the U.S. agricultural economy.



**Increase funding for TEFAP storage and distribution to \$200 million per year.** This will help food banks offset the cost of storing and transporting USDA foods.



**Continue to provide \$15 million per year for TEFAP infrastructure grants.** This program helps expand the capacity and infrastructure of food banks in rural areas.



**Boost funding for the TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Program,** which funds state projects to harvest, package and transport food donations from local farmers.

#### SNAP



**Ensure SNAP's purchasing power aligns with rising grocery prices** and provides adequate support during tough economic times. This will decrease the need for charitable food assistance, helping to reduce the strain on food banks.



**Simplify SNAP eligibility and enrollment** for older adults, college students, veterans, working families, immigrants and other people facing barriers. Protect SNAP choice and focus on ensuring affordable access to nutritious foods.



**Improve assistance to individuals seeking employment** by supporting effective state employment and job training programs and ensuring people have access to SNAP benefits as they find work.



**Allow Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories to participate fully in SNAP and extend flexibility to Native communities** to administer the program.

*“When you're hit financially, you're just without and there's nothing more scary than when you've got to figure out how to feed your kids.”*

— Jake