


THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)

HELPING FARMERS, FEEDING FAMILIES

TEFAP is a federal nutrition program run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that moves food from farms to food banks to families and individuals facing hunger in the United States. The program supports farmers by purchasing commodities and helps struggling families put food on the table. TEFAP also helps ensure the Feeding America network of 200 food banks has enough food to provide to our neighbors in need.




THE 3 FORMS OF TEFAP




TEFAP FOOD PROGRAM

Funded by the Farm Bill, this program allows states to order foods from USDA to help individuals facing hunger. States can also determine how purchased foods are distributed, including determining what emergency feeding organizations (e.g., food banks) participate in the program.



TEFAP STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION

Authorized by the Farm Bill and funded through annual Appropriations, this funding helps offset part of the cost to store and move TEFAP foods.



USDA COMMODITY SUPPORT AND PURCHASES (I.E., SECTION 32 BONUS)

USDA makes market-driven food purchases to support U.S. growers and remove excess food from markets. Purchases are then given to communities through USDA Food Programs like TEFAP.

FOOD BANKS' CORNERSTONE

TEFAP is the cornerstone of the charitable food system. Last year, it provided more than 39% of the food distributed through local hunger-relief organizations - over 2.4 billion meals. During this pandemic, TEFAP will be more vital than ever to ensure our network has enough food to support families struggling with hunger.

HOW TEFAP FOODS ARE DISTRIBUTED



CRITICAL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

During this pandemic and beyond, TEFAP will be vital to ensuring our network has enough food to support families facing hunger. Congress provided an additional \$11.5B in 2020 to help purchase more TEFAP foods due to COVID-19. More funding will be needed to support people in need until the economy recovers.

HELPING TO MEET THE NEED

During the COVID-19 crisis, our network is relying on TEFAP foods to meet our growing need. However, in the next year, we anticipate that food support from the USDA will dramatically decline by 30-40 percent. It's more critical than ever to ensure food banks have the food to meet this moment.