

# 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.

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

USDA makes marketdriven 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



#### **FARMS**



USDA purchases food - fruits, vegetables, meats, grains, and more - from local farms. USDA then moves that food to equitably to states based on a formula adjusted each year based on poverty and unemployment data.



#### 2 STATES



States and the Feeding America food bank network place food orders with USDA, who then works with the food industry to fulfill the orders. Each state is required to determine how TEFAP foods are distributed, and they oversee the agencies that distribute the food. Learn about each state's guidelines.



#### 3

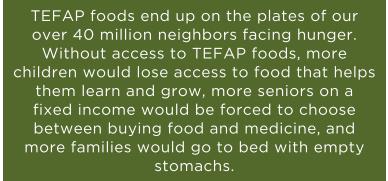
#### **FOOD BANKS**



Feeding America food banks receive TEFAP foods through their individual states. Our food banks then distribute the food directly to local organizations, including food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Our network is the largest TEFAP participant, with 193 of our 200 food banks receiving and distributing TEFAP foods.



#### **FAMILIES**





## 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.