

# 2017 TEFAP in America



The United States is built on traditions of independence and opportunity, along with a strong sense of community responsibility. Men and women work hard for their individual benefit and that of their neighbors.

For decades, hunger has prevented our country from reaching its full potential. Our food banks have seen this worsen as many of our struggling neighbors are left out of the economic recovery.

Our communities suffer when one in eight people struggle to afford enough to eat and can't function at their best in school and at work.

**Together, we can end hunger in the United States.** Effective federal nutrition programs, like The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), provide nourishment to low-income Americans through food banks. Congress can do more to ensure that TEFAP provides food banks with a consistent and dependable food supply by increasing the TEFAP food and storage and distribution funding levels.

## TEFAP is a cornerstone of the food supply for our national network of food banks

The Feeding America network of food banks relies on TEFAP as well as the donations of surplus nutritious food from donors in the agriculture, food manufacturing, retail, and food service fields to provide almost 4 billion meals a year to people in need. TEFAP is the backbone of the charitable food system – providing almost 20% of the food that was distributed through local hunger-relief agencies last year.

While food insecurity has declined to 42 million and our improving economy has resulted in the creation of millions of jobs, the unemployment rate of 4.4 percent, only tells part of the story. The U-6 unemployment rate, which includes those working part-time who want full time work and those that have given up on finding work is 8.6 percent, nearly double the official measure. Many of these people are struggling with food insecurity and food banks are a critical lifeline. With your investments, we will be able to provide nutritious food to children, seniors, and families who continue to need our support.

The 2014 Farm Bill included increases each year for TEFAP commodities – from an increase of \$50 million in FY 2015 down to an additional \$15 million in FY 2018. With need remaining at high across the nation, we strongly oppose the President's FY18 budget submission for \$289 million for mandatory commodities, which is a \$27 million decrease from FY 2017.

## TEFAP COMMODITIES

FY2015

COMMODITIES: \$324M

FY2016

COMMODITIES: \$318M

FY2017

COMMODITIES: \$316M

## Together, we can solve hunger.

Congress must make strong new investments in TEFAP food purchase and storage and distribution funds to help ensure food banks can meet the need in their communities.

Increased TEFAP funding will help give struggling families the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

### Storage and distribution funds are vital

TEFAP storage and distribution funds are another important source of support for food banks. For years now, Congress has appropriated these critical funds at around half of the authorized level of \$100 million annually. TEFAP Storage and Distribution's current funding level of \$59 million only covers 25% of the cost of distributing TEFAP commodities – leaving food banks to bridge the gap.

Congress and Administration must recognize the demand for emergency food assistance across the country and fully fund TEFAP Storage and Distribution. We are strongly opposed to the President's FY18 budget submission for \$54 million for TEFAP Storage and Distribution funds, which is a \$5 million decrease from FY 2017.

## FUEL FOR HALF THE TRIP

National appropriated funds for TEFAP storage and transportation were **AROUND HALF** of what was authorized in FY2016.



### Congress can help food banks and hungry families

As Congress prepares for the FY 2018 funding bill, it is essential that federal programs have the funding necessary to address hunger, we urge you to strengthen and protect food and nutrition assistance programs through strong and sustained funding. Our ability to reach millions of people who are facing hunger in communities nationwide depends on your support.

Learn more at [feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org)