

THE FEEDING TEXAS NETWORK AND FOOD BANKING

WHAT IS FEEDING TEXAS?

Feeding Texas is a statewide network of 20 food banks and leads a unified effort for a hunger-free Texas. Our work is data-driven, community-centered, and informed by people with lived experience of food insecurity. Feeding Texas:

- Advocates for policy and systems change.
- Coordinates benefits assistance and nutrition education services.
- Organizes a statewide response when disasters strike.
- Aligns food banks around common goals to ensure effective and equitable resource allocation.
- Manages statewide resources to support food banks in meeting community needs.
- Advances solutions to tackle the root causes of hunger.

WHAT IS A FOOD BANK?

A food bank is a regional non-profit organization that sources, stores, and distributes nutritious food to local food programs in the communities they serve. Collectively, the Feeding Texas network of food banks reaches every county, serving diverse populations and communities across the state. Our food banks:

- Source food from a variety of sources, including donations from community members, grocery retailers, distributors, manufacturers, and restaurants; and USDA commodities. Food banks purchase food when donations are insufficient to meet community needs.
- Provide additional services such as SNAP application assistance, nutrition education, health screenings, food prescriptions, medically tailored meals, and more.
- Operate mobile food pantries to serve rural and hard-to-reach areas.
- Connect Texans to resources beyond food (such as medical, housing, transportation) to support their needs.

HOW FOOD BANKING WORKS



254 COUNTIES

In Texas provided with hunger relief by the Feeding Texas network



OUR NETWORK:

- Serves over 4 million Texans annually with food and resources in all 254 counties.
- Provided 584 million meals in 2023 to Texans in need.
- Distributed 701 million pounds of food in 2023, reducing food waste and feeding hungry Texans.
 - 71% of the distributed food comprised fruits, vegetables, lean protein, whole grains, or low-fat dairy products.
- Provided SNAP application assistance to over 57,000 households in 2023.
- Provided over 39,000 referrals to partnering organizations through our Referral Partner Program to connect clients with supplemental services to address needs other than nutrition, such as housing and utility assistance.
- Reached over 11,044 unique participants through 1,253 nutrition education classes.