



FY24 At a Glance: North Texas Food Bank

Can you fathom the entire population of a city like Seattle or San Francisco grappling with daily hunger? **That's the harsh reality facing nearly 778,000 people in North Texas, and tragically, about 40% of those are children.** The North Texas Food Bank is here to change that. Since 1982, with the generous support of our community, we've been leading the charge against hunger in North Texas, working tirelessly to close the hunger gap and ensure everyone in our area has access to the nutritious food they need to thrive.

In Fiscal Year 24 (July 2023 – June 2024), NTFB, in partnership with its Feeding Network, continued responding to higher levels of need than we saw even at the height of the pandemic. New data released from Feeding America in May shows **that Texas now leads the nation in hunger, and the NTFB's 13-county service area ranks fourth in terms of the number of people experiencing food insecurity***.

While unemployment has lowered and inflation is leveling out, the cost of many necessities remains high. A June report from the Congressional Joint Economic Committee found that **the average household in Texas is paying \$1,040 more per month to purchase the same goods and services in 2024 as they were in January 2021.** On food alone, the average household in Texas is spending \$141 more per month than they were in 2021. For North Texans in the lowest income bracket, rent and transportation costs often consume up to 40% of their income, and groceries can now take up another 30%, leaving very little for other expenses, such as utilities, medication or childcare.

Hunger exists in every zip code. Many of our neighbors, including those who are working, are forced to choose between buying groceries and paying for other necessities. By receiving access to fresh produce and pantry staples through NTFB and its Feeding Network, they no longer must make those impossible decisions.

NTFB and its Feeding Network, which includes two redistribution hubs and around 500 partner food pantries and community organizations, provided access to **106.4 million physical meals across our 10,000-square-mile service area** in FY24. That was the most-ever physical meals distributed in our history and **a nearly 10 percent increase from FY23.** Additionally, NTFB provided access to 19.4 million meals through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Along with providing food for today, NTFB continued to focus in FY24 **on strategic partnerships and programs that provide hope for tomorrow**, knowing that hunger is ultimately tackled by addressing the underlying barriers to food security. That included launching a new **FoodRx program**, expanding NTFB's nudge pantries, **advocating** for anti-hunger policies, **supporting partners** as they launch workforce development and other wraparound services, **connecting neighbors to additional support** programs and public benefits, and **adding food** in places where neighbors are already visiting for other services.

** Food insecurity is a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life which often equates to missed meals or unhealthy choices.*

***Source: Feeding America Map the Meal Gap, 2024*

****Source: Feeding America State of Senior Hunger Study, 2024*

Hunger in North Texas*

- **Texas tops the nation in hunger**, according to Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap study, with nearly 5 million individuals facing hunger.
- The 13 counties served by the NTFB have the **4th highest number of food-insecure individuals in the country, with an estimated 777,690 people (1 in 7) facing hunger.** (North Texas is behind Los Angeles, New York City and Houston).
- The number of food insecure people in North Texas would fill the **American Airlines Center** (home to the Mavericks and Stars) **39 times**, **Globe Life Field** (home to the Rangers) **19 times**, or **AT&T Stadium** (home of the Cowboys) **10 times**.
- This equates to a **14.2% food insecurity rate for North Texas**, up from 11.9% in 2021, and higher than the national average of 13%.
- Hunger is especially pronounced among children. **Tragically, nearly 40% of those facing hunger in North Texas are children.** An estimated **286,860 (1 in 5) children face hunger**, which equates to a **food insecurity rate of 20.8%**, up from 15.8% in 2021.
- **Texas has the third-highest number of food-insecure seniors in the nation** (behind California and Florida), with an estimated 546,800 people 60 and older facing hunger. That equates to a **9.8% food insecurity rate**, up from 8.5% in 2021***. **Texas ranks No. 1 in hunger among older adults**, or those older than 50, with 551,600 older adults experiencing food insecurity, or 15.4%.
- There continue to be disparities in who faces hunger. In NTFB’s services area:
 - 1 in 4 (28%) Black persons are food insecure
 - 1 in 5 (20%) Hispanic persons are food insecure
 - 1 in 11 (9%) White, non-Hispanic persons are food insecure.
- **Dallas County makes up 52% of NTFB’s food-insecure population**, followed by Collin County at 17% and Denton County (shared with Tarrant Area Food Bank until January 1, 2025) at 15%. The remaining counties when combined make up the other 16%.
- Dallas County has the **6th highest number of food insecure persons** and the **5th highest number of food insecure children** in the nation.

NTFB by the Numbers for FY24

- **Sources of Funds:** 45% Individuals, 25% Government Grants and Fees, 19% Corporations, 7% Foundations, 3% Organizations, 1% Agency Handling Fees and other.
- **Sources of Food:** 54% Donations, 25% Government Hunger Relief Programs, 18% Purchased, 3% Purchased – Government Funds
- **Distribution of Food:** 91% Partner Agencies, 3% Mobile Pantries, 3% Senior Programs, 3% Children’s Programs
- **Distribution of Resources:** 94% Food Bank Operations, 4% Fundraising, 2% Management and General
- **Distribution by Food Type:** 47% Shelf stable and other core items, 35% Fresh produce, 18% Protein

Food for Today

Food Distribution

- In FY24, the NTFB distributed **106.4 million physical meals** in partnership with our Agency Network and our generous supporters. That was the most physical meals distributed in our history and a **9.6% increase from the number of physical meals provided in FY23**.
- Additionally, NTFB provided access to **19.4 million meals through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**.
- In FY24, NTFB distributed an average of **2.5 million pounds of food per week in collaboration with our Feeding Network; 92% of this food was nutritious**.
- In FY24, NTFB focused on increasing neighbors' access to produce. The result was that **produce comprised 35% of all food distributed** (up from 32% in FY23). In total, **44 million pounds of fresh produce was distributed—an increase of 10 million pounds** from FY23.
- NTFB provides access to food in partnership with its two redistribution hubs, Crossroads Community Services and Sharing Life, as well as around **500 partner food pantries and community organizations** in neighborhoods where children, families and older adults facing hunger work and live. About 20% of food distributed goes through the two redistribution hubs.
- In FY24, **60 new partner agencies were added** to NTFB's Feeding Network, and **six partners surpassed 1 million pounds of food distributed for the first time**.
- In FY24, **91% of NTFB's food was distributed through our feeding network – more than 133M pounds**.
- **NTFB unveiled its new fleet in FY24**, purchased using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. By purchasing the vehicles instead of leasing, **NTFB will save money and increase delivery capacity, allowing us to provide access to an additional 2.4 million meals annually**. The new fleet includes 12 long-haul semi-trucks, 11 53-foot refrigerated trailers, eight refrigerated box trucks, four produce pods, four container pantries and the SNAP Mobile unit.

Mobile Food Distribution

- The Mobile Pantry Program distributed nearly **3.2 million meals** to neighbors in hard-to-reach areas, including rural and urban locations, through **301 distributions** and **46 unique distribution sites** throughout our 13-county service area.
- The Mobile Pantry Program works to connect every community to a sustainable partnership in which they thrive. This is done through two tracks – Fresh Route and Progressive Community Growth. **In FY24, 7 partners were added to Fresh Route and 6 were added to Progressive Growth**.
- In FY24, NTFB began the process of transitioning Mobile Pantry distributions into our overall Feeding Network distributions. Starting with FY25, mobile distribution numbers will be reflected as part of our Partner Agency distributions.

Nourish the Future Child Programs

- Through programs and partnerships, NTFB provided **children facing hunger** with access to more than **40 million** physical meals.
- During the 2023-2024 school year, **NTFB's 41 School Pantry sites provided access to nearly 2.7 million meals**. Adding 10 new locations in FY24, School Pantries operate at elementary, middle and high schools as well as at 15 college campuses in NTFB's service area.

- **The Food 4 Kids backpack program provided more than 827,800 meals. The initiative operates at 251 schools and serves an average of 4,500 children facing hunger each week.** The bags are given out on Fridays and include nutritious, nonperishable, kid-friendly food meant to ensure students have enough to eat when they're home over the weekend.
- In partnership with Atmos Energy, NTFB donated copies of the children's book *Hunger Bugs Me!* to **785 elementary school libraries** across the 13 counties it serves. NTFB also launched Kids Camp, a one-day camp for children ages 8-11. In its first year, the camp empowered **120 of the youngest generation** to understand and fight hunger in their neighborhoods and communities.

Senior Food Programs

- In FY24, NTFB provided seniors access to **14 million physical meals** through its dedicated Senior Program (CSFP), and its main services. Through CSFP alone, it delivered 3 million meals, including **more than 1,700 boxes delivered each month by DoorDash thanks to sponsorship by Plano Superbowl.**
- NTFB provided access to an average of **7,372 monthly CSFP boxes** in FY24.
- In FY24, **more than 69,000 boxes of produce** were distributed through CSFP.

Container Pantries & Produce Pods

- **In FY24, NTFB introduced three Produce Pods,** which are standalone, refrigerated storage units stationed at partner agencies that previously only had the capacity to store shelf-stable products. Each Produce Pod is graciously sponsored by NTFB supporters and can store up to four pallets of perishable items a week, which is the equivalent of **20,000 meals.**
- NTFB added a fourth Container Pantry in FY24 and **provided 674,681 meals through the four Container Pantries,** which increase access to nutritious food in underserved areas. A Container Pantry can hold roughly 3,000 pounds of food, and if operational three days a week, can provide access to 36,000 pounds of food each month.

Hope for Tomorrow

Add Food

- NTFB partnered with **25 new health and financial empowerment organizations,** including new health partners and newly onboarded school pantries, to add food in places that neighbors are already visiting or put systems in place for the organization to provide referrals for food.
- In FY24, **NTFB launched its FoodRx program,** which partners with medical clinics that will screen patients for food insecurity and provide those who qualify with a food prescription that they can redeem at a participating partner food pantry operating as a Food Pharmacy. Participating patients receive regular access to fresh produce and other nutritious groceries.

Equip Our Partners

- Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the North Texas community, **NTFB awarded more than \$1 million in grants to more than 50 partner agencies in FY24.** These grants support NTFB partner agencies in adding or repairing refrigeration, expanding their food pantries, purchasing trucks for food transportation and more.
- **Three of these grants, totaling \$166,468, were Hope for Tomorrow awards** that will help partners establish or expand wraparound services that target the underlying barriers to food security.

- **NTFB added 19 Nudge Pantries in FY24**, bringing the total to 83. Partners become Nudge Pantries when they are equipped with signs, recipes, shelf tags and other materials meant to provide subtle cues, or nudges, that help make the healthier choice the easy choice when neighbors are selecting food.
- NTFB has worked with **42 partners to implement the online platform known as Service Insights on MealConnect**. Through a simple questionnaire, the program simplifies the intake process for individuals receiving food while also allowing agency partners to gather data that helps us to better understand our neighbors and the best ways we can serve them.
- **Partner Education and Training courses, which include Network Engagement Services (NES), were provided to 1,530 individuals** from within NTFB's Agency Network during FY24. Classes covered everything from fundraising and marketing to advocacy and volunteer resources.
- Feeding America provided funding for representatives from **three partner agencies to fly to Washington DC** in March to advocate for a strong Farm Bill.

Support our Neighbors

- Understanding where neighbors facing hunger live is critical to closing the hunger gap. To that end, NTFB uses data from Feeding America and its Hunger Index, a comprehensive report developed in partnership with Bain Consulting, to determine which zip codes have the highest unmet needs. For example, in Dallas County, 18% of the people facing hunger reside in 10 South and Southern Dallas zip codes. Last year, **NTFB provided access to around 20 million meals in those 10 zip codes through 160 feeding programs and partners, like Crossroads Community Services**. NTFB also distributed **nearly \$1 million in grants** directly impacting feeding partners serving those communities.
- Direct nutrition education is crucial as our neighbors become equipped to make healthy eating choices. **NTFB provided 1,633 neighbors with personalized nutrition training** in FY24.
- Through NTFB's **Referral Partner Program**, neighbors are referred to an extensive network of community organizations that can address their needs beyond food. In FY24, NTFB **served 3,258 neighbors** through this program.

Advocate

- As 39% of the meals NTFB provided access to last year were tied to government programs, advocating for well-crafted policies that seek to close the hunger gap at the federal, state and local levels is critical to creating sustainable solutions to food insecurity. In FY24, **NTFB had 172 interactions with public officials**.
- This included **advocating for a strong Farm Bill during district meetings with offices for all 12 of the Congressional leaders and Senators** representing NTFB's service area. Agency representatives from their districts attended these meetings, as well.
- NTFB participated in Feeding America's Farm Bill Fly-In Advocacy trip to Washington DC, and holds a **3, or "High Honor Roll," score for advocacy with Feeding America**.

SNAP

- SNAP is the nation's No. 1 defense against hunger. This year, NTFB provided access to more than **19 million meals through its Social Services Assistance SNAP services, which equates to a local economic impact value of nearly \$80 million**.
- NTFB's Social Service Assistance team provided **SNAP application assistance to 23,369 neighbors**. The team also assisted **9,473 neighbors with applications for TANF, Medicaid and the Medicare Savings Plan**.

- Along with on-site and over-the-phone assistance, **SSA helped submit 268 applications from the SNAP Mobile**, which is an office on wheels that travels to high-needs, rural areas.
- In Texas, SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, is a crucial resource for **3.44 million low-income Texans. One out of every nine Texans receives SNAP benefits. For every one meal NTFB can provide, SNAP can provide nine.** Yet only seven out of 10 eligible Texans are enrolled—one of the lowest participation rates in the country. NTFB's SSA team is working to combat that by increasing awareness, and ensuring we meet neighbors where they are, whether in-person, on the phone or online.

Making an Impact

- NTFB maximizes every donation made by generous individuals, corporations and foundations. For every \$1 donated, NTFB can provide access to three nutritious meals, and **94% of its resources go directly toward fulfilling the mission.**
- With a goal of \$50 million in commitments to our Feeding North Texas Foundation that will ensure we are equipped to meet the needs of our community in the future, **NTFB surpassed \$43 million in commitments by the close of FY24.**
- Volunteers are crucial to NTFB's mission. In FY24, volunteers donated **98,232 hours** to help serve North Texans facing hunger. This equates to a **value of nearly \$1.5 million.**
- In FY24, **NTFB added a Repack Room** where volunteers help us turn bulk dry goods, like rice and beans, into smaller quantities that partner agencies can order to distribute to neighbors.
- The North Texas community generously helps meet the need with hundreds of individuals, community organizations, schools and businesses hosting canned food drives in FY24, collecting **592,972 pounds** of non-perishable foods (which equates to more than **494,143 meals**).
- The North Texas Food Bank has proudly partnered with the **State Fair of Texas since 2010 to help collect nearly 3.3 million pounds of canned food items through the *Feed the Need* food drive**, including 217,913 pounds collected in FY24.