

NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS



January Edition

Happy New Year!

Federal Advocacy News

Congress averted a government shutdown by passing another continuing resolution that will fund the government through March 1 for some departments and agencies, including the USDA, and March 8 for other departments. This gives the House and Senate appropriations committees more time to negotiate spending bills for fiscal year 2024. It is important that federal nutrition programs receive full funding to maintain expected caseloads. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) for low-income seniors and the Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) are facing funding shortfalls while seeing an increase in need. Therefore, we are advocating for additional funding for these programs but not at the expense of other nutrition programs. This new continuing resolution means that a draft of the Farm Bill is likely to be delayed again. The 2018 Farm Bill expired in September of 2023, however Congress agreed to continue funding at the same level until September of 2024.

Last week, Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden (D-OR) and House Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith (R-MO) announced a bipartisan tax proposal that includes key improvements to the Child Tax Credit, which played an important role in lowering poverty and hunger for millions during the pandemic. This proposal would lift as many as 400,000 families above the poverty line in its first year. The Child Tax Credit represents roughly \$35 billion directed primarily to families with low incomes.



2024 is a Big Election Year!

Americans will go to the polls to elect the next president, members of congress, and state and local officials. Senator Ted Cruz is seeking his third term. Nine others, including our local representatives, Congressman Colin Allred and State Representative Carl O. Sherman, are running against him, which means those districts will be open and electing someone new. Denton Congressman Michael Burgess will not seek reelection and there are a number of candidates running for that seat.

Important dates for the 2024 Texas Primary:

February 5 – Last day to register to vote if you aren't already registered.

February 23 – Last day to send a mail-in ballot.

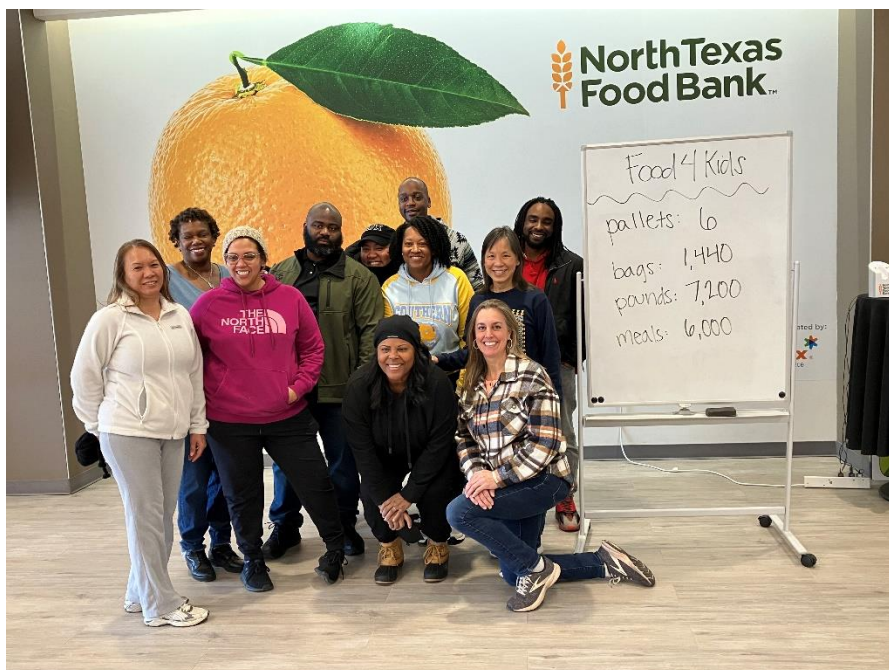
February 20 – March 1 – Early Voting

March 5 – Election Day

If you need more information about voting in Texas and your area, you can find it [here](#).

Local NTFB News

This month, USDA Southwest Regional Branch Chief for Food Banks, Brandon Knox and members of his team participated in a volunteer shift at the North Texas Food Bank. In addition, they were able to see where all our USDA food is stored. We appreciate them giving their time!



NTFB Mid Fiscal Year Report:

The North Texas Food is halfway through our fiscal year (July – December) and the needs of our neighbors continue to grow. In just these first six months we distributed a total of 64.6 million meals, including 54.1 million physical meals (4 million over forecast) and 10.5 million SNAP equivalent meals.

In Memoriam Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson



Sadly, at the end of 2023 we lost Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. She was a trailblazer who represented Dallas for 30 years. You can read about her dedication to food insecurity and the North Texas Food Bank [here](#).

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