

NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS



Federal Advocacy News

Farm Bill Reauthorization 2023

Every five years, Congress has an opportunity to strengthen our nation's commitment to hunger relief via the Farm Bill. This rare moment in the legislative calendar guarantees a review of federal nutrition strategies like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which serve as the backbone of hunger relief in our nation and across the state of Texas.

In their basic design and outcomes, these programs work extremely well in their mission to fight hunger and nourish Texas families. They have consistently proven their value by reducing the burden of hunger for millions of Texans in times of pandemic, natural disaster, and economic distress. This value also extends to supporting over 19,000 Texas food retailers and producers during periods of economic uncertainty.

Texans represent a major segment of the national population benefiting from these investments – 1 in every 12 SNAP recipients, and 1 in every 9 food insecure families reside in Texas. Fighting hunger has always been a bipartisan effort – all our major nutrition programs were created on a bipartisan basis, and the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization was a bipartisan exercise that maintained and improved these programs. We urge Congress to pass a Farm Bill that honors this bipartisan history while strengthening and protecting these valuable investments for Texans and all Americans. Below are the priorities we are advocating for in the Farm Bill.

Strengthening federal food and nutrition programs helps ensure that no one in our country goes hungry. Here are recommended investments for both TEFAP and SNAP.

TEFAP



Double funding for TEFAP food purchases. This will help ensure food banks can serve everyone who comes through their doors, and it will support the U.S. agricultural economy.



Increase funding for TEFAP storage and distribution to \$200 million per year. This will help food banks offset the cost of storing and transporting USDA foods.



Continue to provide \$15 million per year for TEFAP infrastructure grants. This program helps expand the capacity and infrastructure of food banks in rural areas.



Boost funding for the TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Program, which funds state projects to harvest, package and transport food donations from local farmers.

SNAP



Ensure SNAP's purchasing power aligns with rising grocery prices and provides adequate support during tough economic times. This will decrease the need for charitable food assistance, helping to reduce the strain on food banks.



Simplify SNAP eligibility and enrollment for older adults, college students, veterans, working families, immigrants and other people facing barriers.



Improve assistance to individuals seeking employment by supporting effective state employment and job training programs and ensuring people have access to SNAP benefits as they find work.



Allow Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories to participate fully in SNAP and **extend flexibility to Native communities** to administer the program.

Take action NOW and tell Congress to pass a strong Farm Bill! [Click here](#)

Local NTFB Advocacy News

The staff from Congressman Keith Self's office visited the NTFB Perot Family Campus for a tour and to discuss the Farm Bill. We appreciate their thoughtful questions and discussion.



Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett (TX30) hosted a Back-to-School event in her district on July 29, 2023. NTFB was happy to be present at the event where we were able to provide resources and assist with SNAP applications.



The North Texas Food Bank welcomes Government Relations Officer, Clarissa Clarke to the team! Most recently Clarissa worked for the Alzheimer's Association for 10 ½ years advocating for policies to help those with the disease and their families. Prior to that she worked for two United States Senators and a Texas State Senator.

"I am so happy to work for such an esteemed organization that helps so many of our neighbors. It is so important that our elected officials hear from their constituents. There are many ways for them to hear us, in person meetings, letters, emails, letters to the editor and by taking action (see above Action Item). If you are interested in learning more about advocacy, telling your story to your elected official and becoming more involved, please reach out to me at clarissa.clarke@ntfb.org or 214-605-3011. I look forward to hearing from you and advocating for our food insecure communities."

Thank you for using your voice to advocate for hungry Texans.

Clarissa Clarke
Government Relations Officer

