

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 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 43 million as more Americans find employment following the Recession this leaves millions of working families, children, and seniors not always knowing where their next meal will come from. Food banks across the country continue to serve more people while donations and critical food sources have tightened.

The 2014 Farm Bill included increased funding for TEFAP commodities for fiscal years 2015 through 2018. With need remaining at high levels, we support the House's FY17 legislative proposal to add an additional \$19 million for the purchase of TEFAP foods.

TEFAP COMMODITIES

FY2014

COMMODITIES: \$268.5M

FY2015

COMMODITIES: \$324M

FY2016

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.

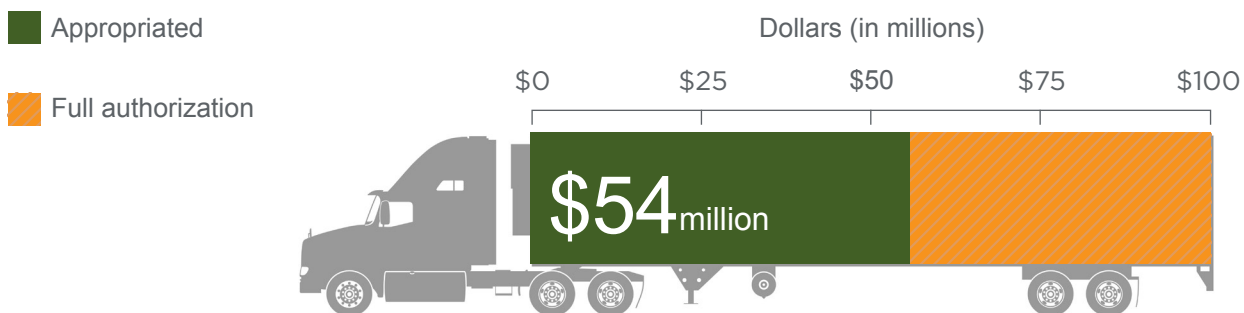
Storage and distribution funds are vital

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 \$54 million only covers 23.97% of the cost of distributing TEFAP commodities – leaving food banks to bridge the gap.

Congress and the Administration must recognize the demand for emergency food assistance across the country and fully fund TEFAP storage and distribution. We support the FY 2017 legislative proposal to increase TEFAP storage and distribution to \$59 million.

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

Ending hunger in our country requires a strong public/private partnership, with proven and effective federal programs working in tandem with food banks. Our government can make great strides through legislative and administrative action. During the consideration of legislation and USDA's review of potential bonus commodity purchases, Congress and the Administration must seize the opportunity to increase investments in TEFAP purchases and fully fund storage and transportation assistance.

By ending hunger in the United States, we restore opportunity and independence for all. This is how our country will reach its full potential.

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