



TEFAP in America

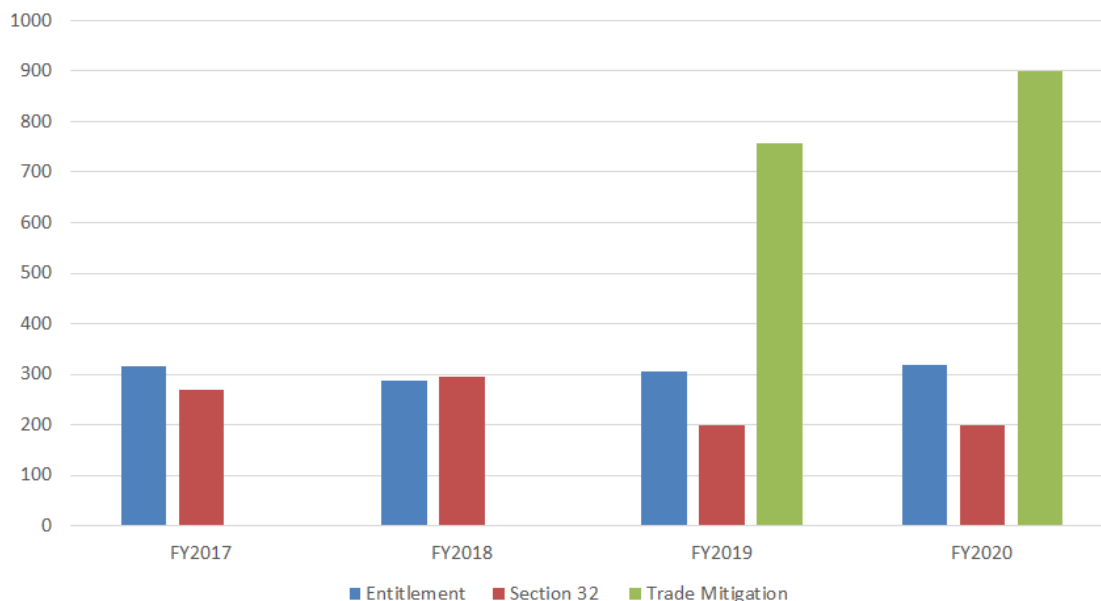
In the United States today, 37 million individuals are food insecure. Despite low unemployment, millions of families are struggling to pay bills and do not always know where their next meal will come from. Food banks across the country continue to serve more people while donations and food donations have tightened. Food banks receive The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food through funding levels set by the Farm Bill, as well as through USDA purchases of US grown commodities when price support is needed. TEFAP foods drastically increased in 2019 and 2020 due to market support purchases, but are expected to decline in 2021, leaving food banks with a large food gap to fill.

TEFAP is the 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 over 4.2 billion meals a year to people in need. TEFAP is essential to food banks and the communities they serve, providing over 20 percent of the food that was distributed through local hunger-relief agencies last year.

Feeding America receives commodities through TEFAP Entitlement food funded in the Farm Bill, as well as USDA Section 32 Bonus and Food Purchase and Distribution Program purchases that provide support for farmers and growers. Between July 2018 and June 2019, Feeding America's network of food banks distributed 1.1 billion pounds of food through TEFAP. This year we expect to distribute approximately 1.4 billion pounds in TEFAP food, with the significant increase due to the USDA's Food Purchase and Distribution Program.

Effective federal nutrition programs, like TEFAP, provide nourishment to low-income Americans through food banks. Food banks rely on the nutritious food provided by TEFAP to help feed people in need, and rely on the funding appropriated through the TEFAP storage and distribution account to help pay for distribution costs. Congress can strengthen funding for effective and efficient TEFAP distribution by increasing the TEFAP storage and distribution funding levels in Appropriations legislation.

TEFAP Food Purchases Per Year (in millions of pounds)



Appropriations Legislation must provide strong funding for TEFAP Storage & Distribution

TEFAP storage and distribution funds are an important source of support for food banks. The program has been consistently funded below the authorized level of \$100 million.

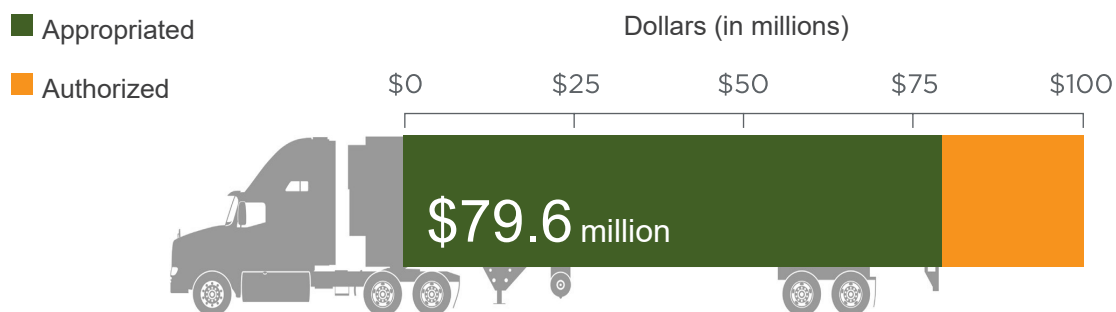
Congress provided \$79.6 million in funding for TEFAP Storage and Distribution in FY2020, short of the full authorization of \$100 million. This is \$171,640,898 million short of the total costs food banks incur storing and distributing TEFAP foods.

Congress must make strong new investments in TEFAP storage and distribution funds in FY21 to help ensure food banks can meet the need in their communities.

Increased TEFAP storage and distribution funding will help food banks better serve individual and families in their communities.

FUEL FOR ONLY PART OF THE TRIP

National appropriated funds for TEFAP storage and distribution in FY2020 were 20 percent short of what was authorized



Congress can help food banks and hungry families

Ending hunger in the United States 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 consideration of FY2021 appropriations legislation, Congress and the Administration must seize the opportunity to increase investments in TEFAP food purchases and fully fund storage and transportation assistance.

