



2023 Farm Bill – Helping Farmers and Families

Congress should pass a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill that strengthens critical anti-hunger programs such as [The Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\)](#) and [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#).

TEFAP provides nutritious food to families and supports farmers and growers by purchasing U.S.-grown food. It is a lifeline for rural communities. To strengthen TEFAP in the 2023 Farm Bill, Congress should:

- **Increase mandatory funding by \$250 million per year for food purchases** to ensure the flow of TEFAP foods remains steady throughout the food assistance network and supports the U.S. agricultural economy.
- **Authorize \$200 million per year for TEFAP storage and distribution funds and \$15 million per year for TEFAP infrastructure grants.** Food banks rely on a network of anti-hunger partners to distribute food. The safe and efficient distribution of food requires investments in cold storage and transportation.
- **Bolster the Farm to Food Bank Program by increasing funding for this program, removing the state match, and allowing states to prioritize projects for donated food** or food purchased at a low cost from local growers and producers. In addition to supporting supply chain resiliency, these investments have a stimulative effect on local economies.

FAST FACTS

- TEFAP has a positive impact on the farm economy. [TEFAP purchases give U.S. growers and producers an average of 27 cents per dollar](#); by contrast, just around 16 cents of every retail food dollar go back to farmers.
- River Bend Food Bank relies on programs like The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to keep shelves stocked. In FY2022, USDA programs like TEFAP accounted for **18 percent of food distributed – approximately 4.2 million meals.**



River Bend Food Bank serves 23 counties in northeastern Iowa and western Illinois. Nearly **100,000 people** in our service area are faced with food insecurity – which is almost 10 percent of the population. Among children that increases to 14 percent.



Charitable donations alone cannot ensure families get enough to eat. Food banks rely on federal nutrition programs to help keep shelves stocked for people in need.



A robust, bipartisan Farm Bill reauthorization will help farmers and families.

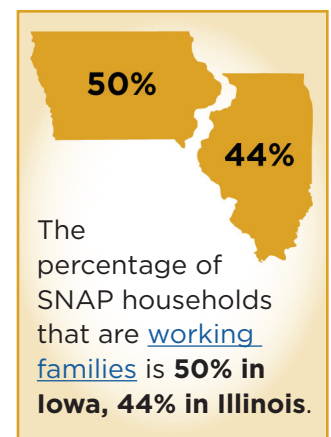
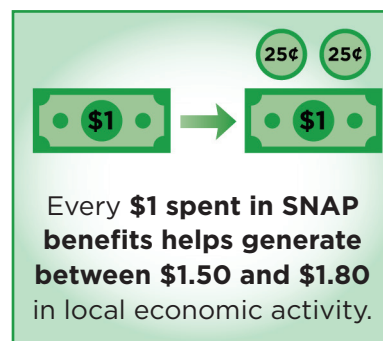
Strong federal nutrition programs like TEFAP and SNAP work in tandem with food banks across the country to assist families and individuals facing hunger.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is our country's most effective anti-hunger program. To strengthen SNAP in the 2023 Farm Bill, Congress should:

- **Increase SNAP's purchasing power by basing benefits on the [Low-Cost Food Plan](#) (rather than the [Thrifty Food Plan](#)).** This will set benefit levels on a more realistic market basket and match the true cost of food, which is especially important given inflation.
- **Streamline eligibility and enrollment by improving and simplifying applications** [e.g., by combining applications (such as SNAP, WIC, Medicaid), making telephonic signatures a national option, and reducing the number of in-person visits required to authorize programs.]
- **Improve upon SNAP's well-designed structure to allow for a more gradual tapering of benefits as program participants earn more income.** This will stave off the "[benefits cliff](#)" and provide a more stable transition toward economic self-sufficiency.

FAST FACTS

- **Two-thirds of those who receive SNAP benefits** are among our most vulnerable, including children, seniors, and people living with disabilities.
- **Children who participate in SNAP are healthier** than their eligible, non-participating peers. Conversely, [children facing food insecurity often do worse in school](#) and struggle with social and behavioral problems.
- **SNAP has strict eligibility and work requirements** and for the temporarily unemployed, SNAP is one of the few food support resources available during a job search.



Congress should protect SNAP's funding and structure while addressing systemic barriers to access to ensure everyone who qualifies for benefits receives them.

Questions? Contact us: advocacy@riverbendfoodbank.org