



COVID Relief Priorities

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): \$900 million in additional food purchases; \$100 million in storage and distribution costs; \$15 million in TEFAP infrastructure grants

- While the need for food assistance is up, our network is looking at a 30-40% loss in TEFAP foods. TEFAP is a mainstay of most food banks, and is Food Bank of Alaska's biggest source of food to rural Alaska. Without further investment, Alaska is at risk of losing 1,519,800 meals this year.
- We need additional funds for this program to continue to meet the elevated need; we are asking for \$900m to help close this gap. This is less than half of what Feeding America calculates in the total loss to the network.
- We hope that some of the \$3.6 billion in ARPA for food supply chain goes to TEFAP, but that seems unclear. We also want to continue to find ways to make TEFAP more flexible for Alaska and to incorporate some of the good things from the Farmers to Families Food Boxes.
- We urge Congress to provide \$100 million for TEFAP Storage & Distribution and \$15 million for TEFAP Infrastructure Grants in FY2022 Appropriations.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Extend the 15% boost for the length of the economic recovery

- The 15% SNAP boost has been hugely important for both recipients and for Alaska's economy; the boost provides an average monthly benefit increase of \$35 per person in Alaska, and provides \$3 million monthly to our state in federal benefits.
- We would like to see this 15% boost extended for the length of the economic recovery at a minimum, and at least beyond the September 30 deadline in the ARPA.

Cold Storage and Distribution Capacity: \$543,250,000

- We have an amazing new building that we will be moving into in August, which will give us so much needed storage. However, the need for additional cold storage and distribution capacity still exists for our partners across the state, and is something that needs to be bolstered. These deficits particularly inhibit our efforts to get healthy, fresh food distributed throughout our network. This is a large need nationally among the food bank network.
- Feeding America estimates a total cost of \$543,250,000 to meet the most immediate needs for new coolers, freezers, refrigerated and dry trucks, and trailers across the entire charitable food system.

Child Nutrition Programs: Expand the Summer EBT program (currently operating as summer Pandemic EBT); make the Meals To You pilot permanent for Alaska

- We would like to see an expansion to the Summer EBT program (currently operating as summer Pandemic EBT). The Summer Food Service Program is so important in closing the summer hunger gap, but unfortunately it reaches only a small percentage of those eligible. Expanding Summer EBT would allow us to reach many more eligible kids, which

would be particularly important for a rural state like ours. Since we know a one-size-fits-all approach toward summer feeding doesn't work, this would be another option in the toolbox. The state has been hesitant to apply for this in the past, as the current Summer EBT model does not guarantee funding year to year. For Summer EBT a key component for Alaska would be that there is a cost differential for Alaska (like with Pandemic EBT).

- We would like to see the Meals To You program (currently serving some rural communities in Alaska by mailing boxes to individual families who qualify where a traditional SFSP site is not realistic) made permanent. Alaska is part of a limited USDA pilot right now.
- The Summer Meals Act remains a high priority for Child Nutrition Reauthorization, and we will have additional priorities to include when that cycle happens.