The State of Food Insecurity

The pandemic is hopefully in the rearview mirror. However, the sunsetting of the public health emergency ushered in a host of other challenges for Alaskans. We are all familiar with the impacts of enduring supply chain issues and runaway inflation. These problems have created a new, secondary cost-of-living crisis that has created an additional burden for our most vulnerable community members.

A third factor facing Alaskans is caused by what is known as the “benefit cliff”- the sudden and often unexpected decrease in public benefits that can occur with a small increase in earnings. One concerning example of this can be seen within the senior box program in Alaska. In May of 2022, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, a program that provides monthly food boxes to income eligible seniors reached the caseload limit for the state. A waitlist began and by the end of the year, more than 600 seniors were waiting to access food boxes. At the same time, the larger PFD rendered 25% of seniors utilizing the program ineligible. In some cases, they were only over the income limit to receive a monthly food box by less than $100.

With government support pulling back, and a steady and sizeable drop in large food donations, we are needing to buy more food to meet the sustained high level of need. This food, just like at the grocery store, comes at a higher cost so our available funds don’t go as far. More importantly, while this funding is providing some relief, it is not a sustainable source from which to provide critical nutrition to our neighbors in need.

As we look ahead at the coming year, our focus will be providing immediate food relief in light of the current challenges while also leaning in to our 3-year strategic plan. Our goals to optimize the food distribution network and reduce gaps in food access are critical to both short-term and long-term food security for all Alaskans. Supporting this work is the opening of our satellite facility in Wasilla and the expansion of rural partnerships. Thanks to your support, Food Bank of Alaska is able to provide increased assistance statewide to help ensure children, families, seniors and veterans have full plates.
Providing Stability and Hope for a Brighter Future

Food Bank of Alaska is currently supported by a 16-member board of directors, each person sharing their time and talents to elevate our mission to ensure all Alaskans have access to adequate food resources. Two of these members are Milena Sevigny, Board President, and Claudia Russell, Board Treasurer, who joined in 2017 and 2018 respectively. Not only have their personal commitments contributed to the success of our organization, but each of their companies provide critical support to our operations, more recently ensuring our ability to meet the increased need resulting from the pandemic and inflation.

Milena and Claudia continue to go above and beyond to serve Alaskans, personally and professionally, and their stories inspire us to continue working tirelessly to serve every Alaskan child, senior, family and veteran. For Milena, she wanted to join an organization tackling food insecurity and making a positive impact on Alaskan’s facing hunger. She saw her opportunity to participate in creating solutions to enable all people to have access to food, no matter what.

Every single person in Alaska has the ability to make a difference and impact the lives of those struggling with food access.

-Milena, Board President

Food insecurity is prevalent in both urban and rural communities, especially now, and as was experienced during the first two years of the pandemic, can affect anyone at any time. Her efforts go beyond the boardroom, where she serves on our Advocacy Committee and uses her voice to make a difference on policies and issues that address the root causes of hunger. Milena also encourages people to consider starting a small home garden. As the popularity of individual and community gardens grows, it’s just one way we can collectively increase food security for ourselves and neighbors in need. In addition to this commitment, her employer, TOTE, has provided both in-kind shipping for food and cash donations for over 30 years.

Claudia first learned of Food Bank of Alaska’s mission and programs through her service on a United Way committee. Through her work at Matson, she has helped coordinate their workplace food drives and generous donations of transportation and cash.

Matson has a long-standing commitment to improving the communities it serves. Our support of the Food Bank of Alaska allows us to help meet the basic needs of Alaskans. Adding to the company’s financial and in-kind support, our Anchorage team looks forward to volunteering at the Thanksgiving Blessing every year. We are committed to this important work for the long haul.

-Vic Angoco Senior Vice President, Alaska, Matson

Claudia soon became a donor herself, and eventually joined the board. Claudia believes that for all of life’s challenges, feeding your family shouldn’t be one of them. Of particular concern to her is the number of children in our state, 1 in 6, who don’t know where their next meal will come from. Food insecurity predominantly affects the working poor but has touched the lives of many families for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. A significant number of community members are one or two paychecks away from not being able to put enough food on the table, and often find themselves choosing between rent or their heating bill and food for their children. When Claudia shares her “why” with others, she points to the high number of mobile food pantry visitors who are active military or seniors on fixed incomes who can’t work and who would go hungry without the support of Food Bank of Alaska and our partner agencies. She looks forward to the planned expansion of programs in rural Alaska, and ultimately hopes for a future where no Alaskan faces hunger.

To say we are humbled by their decisions to choose to support us, out of the thousands of nonprofits in Alaska, is an understatement. Their added company contributions to ship food from the Lower48 to Alaska are invaluable and make our mission of serving Alaskans statewide a reality each and every day.
Last legislative session, Food Bank of Alaska was grateful to secure $10 million for food bank infrastructure. This included $6 million to grant to the statewide anti-hunger network for infrastructure and capacity building projects and $4 million to allow us greater space to serve our partners through the purchase of an adjacent building. Many of Food Bank of Alaska’s partners needed more storage and distribution space, additional cold and frozen storage, and equipment such as forklifts, ATVs, and vehicles, and we were tasked with re-granting these infrastructure funds statewide.

There was a tremendous response to this grant opportunity, with 81 applications submitted totaling over $28 million in requests. We formed an external review committee to help review applications, with representatives from the Rasmuson Foundation, Mat-Su Health Foundation, RurAL Cap, Alaska Food Policy Council, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and Alaska Commercial Company. We thank them for their help in reviewing these grant recommendations. With applications eclipsing available resources, additional consideration was given to projects serving rural areas as well as to organizations that function as food banks in providing services to other agencies or multiple communities. Investment in this much-needed infrastructure will help alleviate hunger across Alaska now and into the future.

Many charitable food organizations operate on shoestring budgets and struggle with a lack of adequate space and infrastructure.

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank has already increased their capacity with reliable, energy efficient freezers and coolers.

The pandemic highlighted these gaps and deficiencies, and the capacity challenges of these organizations became very apparent. This historic investment will help remove bottlenecks and allow for the distribution of more healthy food, while reducing overall food waste. We are incredibly grateful to the Alaska Legislature and the Governor for making this competitive grant process possible. Listed below are the organizations that were granted funding; they represent many communities and different kinds of projects.

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<th>Infrastructure Grant Distribution</th>
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<td>Rural &amp; Outlying Areas</td>
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Anchor Point Food Pantry • YMCA Eielson Air Force Base • Bean’s Cafe & Children’s Lunchbox • Bethel Community Services Foundation • Blood N Fire Ministry of Alaska • Brother Francis of Kodiak, Inc. • Catholic Social Services • Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska • Chugiak Eagle River Food Pantry • Copper River Native Association • Downtown Soup Kitchen • Emergency Assistance and Food Bank of Valdez • Fairbanks Community Food Bank • Fairbanks Five Loaves Food Pantry • Frontline Mission Wasilla • Girdwood Chapel • Helping Hands Food Bank • Homer Community Food Pantry • Hoonah Indian Association • Juneau Housing First Collaborative (The Glory Hall) • Kake Memorial Presbyterian Church • Kawerak, Inc. • Kenai Peninsula Food Bank • Kids Kupboard • Lutheran Social Services • Maniilaq Association • Manley Village Council • Mat-Su Food Bank • Mat-Su Senior Services • Native Village of Port Heiden • Native Village of Tetlin • Native Village of Unalakleet • Nenana Native Association • Nenana Tortella Council on Aging, Inc. • Resurrection Lutheran Church • Seward Senior Center • Southeast Alaska Food Bank • The Salvation Army of Alaska • Upper Susitna Food Pantry • Upper Susitna Seniors • Valdez Native Tribe • Wasilla Area Seniors • Willow Community Food Pantry
Volunteer Spotlight

Although Erica Gold has only volunteered with Food Bank of Alaska for a short time, she was previously participating in volunteer activities for her local food bank back home in Montana for years. Erica volunteers here nearly every week, most often supporting our Crate Washing activity, where volunteers clean and sanitize crates used during our Food Reclamation activity to ensure we are safely providing food to our Mobile Food Pantry partners and partner agencies.

“He always challenged my siblings and I on finding ways to support the people around us. Chopping a neighbor’s wood, helping a stranger buy groceries, pulling weeds for the single mom down the street. I don’t believe I ever saw the man sitting down or taking a moment for himself... No matter how small or insignificant my crate washing may feel some days, I think of him, and hope my silly small acts can reach people who need it.”

Erica contributes her enthusiasm for giving back to her father.

We are fortunate to have an inspired and inspiring volunteer with a passion for helping others on our team like Erica.
HOW YOUR GENEROSITY IMPACTS OUR COMMUNITY

21,812
Senior Boxes Distributed

34,641
Summer Meals Provided

38,854
Families Served via MFPs

893,724
Meals Distributed through SNAP

Sources of Food

SOURCES OF FOOD

58% Donated from food industry and community

32% USDA Federal Commodities

10% Purchased with your support

Top Food Donors

Carrs Safeway
Walmart
Costco
Charlie’s Produce
Fred Meyer

Top Food Drives

ConocoPhillips Alaska
CANstruction
ASD Bear Valley Elementary
Lona Building Technologies
JBER Commissary

Transportation Donors

TOTE Maritime Alaska
Matson, Inc.
Lynden Transport, Inc.
Weaver Bros., Inc.
Ravn Alaska
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

**REVENUE**

- 38.7% Individuals
- 25.4% Corporations
- 17.7% Government Grants & Contracts
- 12.5% Other
- 5.7% Earned Program Income
- 1% Fundraising
- 4% Administration

**EXPENSES**

- 95% Program Services
- 1% Fundraising
- 4% Administration

**Balance Sheet**

**REVENUE (including food)**

- Donations: Individuals $2,565,188
- Donations: Corporations, Foundations, Businesses and Organizations $1,681,926
- Government Grants and Contracts $1,174,194
- Earned and Program Income $375,845
- Other Revenue (including non food in-kind) $828,588
- Value of Donated Food $12,134,767
- **Total Revenue** $18,760,508

**EXPENSES**

- Program Services (including value of food distributed) $17,983,787
- Fundraising $186,488
- Administration $769,116
- **Total Expenses** $18,939,391

**Change in Net Assets** $178,883

**Net Assets, Beginning of Year** $18,196,931

**Net Assets, End of Year** $18,018,048

**BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY**

- Total Assets $18,018,048
- Liabilities $252,895
- Net Assets $18,018,048

- Unrestricted $17,502,357
- Temporarily Restricted $515,691
- Total Liabilities and Net Assets $18,270,943
Our Mission
Food Bank of Alaska is dedicated to eliminating hunger in Alaska by obtaining and providing food to partner agencies feeding hungry people and through anti-hunger leadership. We believe that no one deserves to be hungry.

foodbankofalaska.org

Statewide Food Security Network
Food Bank of Alaska is the center of a statewide food assistance network that serves all across Alaska. We have 66 agencies and 109 partners. However, these numbers do not represent the full scope of FBA’s statewide impact. Agencies are organizations who maintain an agreement and shop at our facility in Anchorage and the MatSu Valley. Program Partners work with us to administer the federal and state assistance programs. These programs include The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). We work with other groups, like camps and school districts, to provide food for summer break feeding. We partner with church partners to distribute food for holiday events, and we utilize grants to send food into remote and rural villages to respond to emergency situations and disasters. Our current partners include:

- Akeela Inc.
- Alaska Family Services
- Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
- Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission
- Anchorage Native Assembly
- Anchorage Northside SDA Church
- Armed Services YMCA
- AWAIC
- Bean’s Café
- Big Lake Community Food Pantry
- Blood n Fire Ministry of Alaska
- Changepend Church MFP
- Chugiak Eagle River Food Pantry
- Chugiak Senior Citizens Center
- Church of the Nations
- Copper River Native Association
- Covenant House Alaska
- Downtown Hope Center
- Eklutna, Native Village of First CME Church MFP
- FISH
- Frontline Mission
- Girdwood Chapel
- Government Hill Backpack Buddies
- Greater Friendship Baptist MFP
- He Will Provide Community Food
- Helping Hands Food Bank
- Hope Christian Church
- Hope Christian Fellowship
- Jewel Lake Church of the Nazarene MFP
- King’s Chapel
- Knik House
- Lutheran Church of Hope MFP
- Lutheran Social Services
- Mat-Su Food Bank
- Mat-Su Senior Services
- MLK Jr. Foundation - Shiloh Mission
- Mountain Coast Vineyard
- Mountain View Community MFP
- Muldoon Community Assembly MFP
- New Hope Compassionate Ministries
- New Season Community Development MFP
- North Anchorage Church of God
- Open Door Mission
- Our Lady of the Lake Food Pantry
- Palmer Christian Food Pantry
- Palmer Food Bank
- Revive Alaska Community Services
- Rights of Passage
- Rogers Park Back Pack Buddies
- S/A Family Emergency Services
- S/A Mat-Su Palmer
- S/A Older Alaskans
- Sonrise Community Church
- St. Francis House (CSS)
- St. John United Methodist Church MFP
- Stepping Stones
- Summit Worship Center
- Sutton Bible Church Food Pantry
- Upper Susitna-Sunshine
- Valdez Food Bank
- Voice of Christ Full Gospel Church
- Volunteers of America - Trailside
- Volunteers of America-ARCH
- Willow Community Food Pantry
- YoungLives Alaska

(MFP) Mobile Food Pantry | (S/A) Salvation Army

Nourishing Communities through Children’s Food Programs
Food Bank of Alaska administers two critical programs providing free meals for youth across the state- the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). In summer 2022, SFSP supported 30 rural communities with 34,641 meals, providing approximately $256,343 of meal assistance directly to children. We are working to establish 10 new meal sites this summer to provide more meals for the 1 in 6 children in Alaska who are food insecure.

Our CACFP program provides meals for children during the school year, and we continue to establish new sites to meet the increased need. Our partnerships with organizations like CampFire help ensure that children have access to the food they need through these programs, and we are excited to expand our reach workng with RurAL CAP and the Boys and Girls Club of Alaska.