FARM BILL: Help End Hunger in Our Community

The farm bill is federal legislation that governs many nutrition and agriculture programs, and it is currently up for renewal. This legislation allocates funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Together these programs help to bridge the food gap for millions of families and individuals facing hunger across the country.

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank urges Congress to support and strengthen our nation's nutrition and agriculture programs in the Farm Bill.

1. Understand the Scale of Hunger in America

- Hunger exists in every county, parish and borough in the United States. 44 million people, including more than 13 million children, face hunger in the U.S.¹
- As grocery bills and other costs of living continue to rise, more households are turning to food banks to meet their needs.
 - Over 49 million people (1 in 6) turned to the charitable food sector for help in 2022.²
 - Since 2021, food prices have increased nationally by 25.5 percent; and, in 2023, Pennsylvania led the country in grocery price hikes.³

2. See the Local Impact of TEFAP and SNAP

TEFAP and SNAP work together to help ensure people in our community can put food on the table every day.



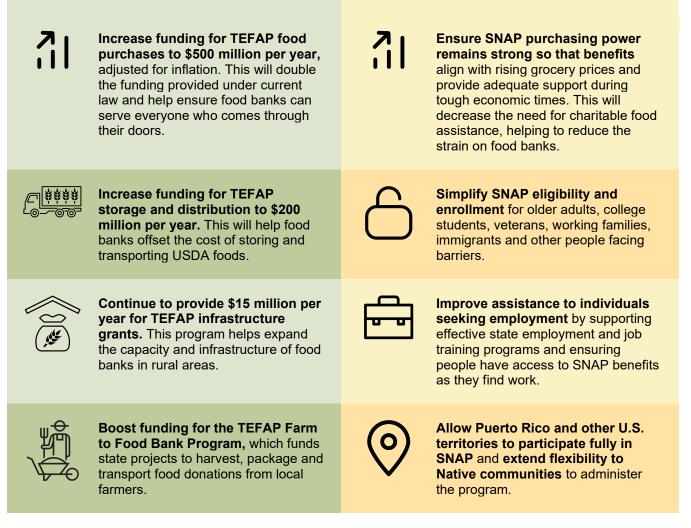
¹ USDA, Economic Research Institute, Food Security in the U.S. (October 2023)

- 2 Feeding America, <u>"Charitable Food Assistance Participation in 2022</u>" (June 2023)
- 3 Consumer Affairs, "The Rising Cost of Groceries by State (2024)" (November 2023)
- 4 Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Medical Assistance, Food Stamps and Cash Assistance statistics report (December 2023)

Strengthening federal food and nutrition programs helps ensure that no one in our country goes hungry. Here are recommended investments for both TEFAP and SNAP.

SNAP

TEFAP



Vincent is from Duquesne and used to do high rise window cleaning for 30 years, washing the windows of Pittsburgh's skyscrapers. After multiple back, knee and hip surgeries, he now lives on disability. Living on a fixed income, inflation pushed Vincent's budget to a breaking point and, when the SNAP emergency benefits expired, he lost more than \$200 a month in food assistance.

Vincent now visits Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's onsite food pantry to free up money for other bills. He says the experience, and the ability to choose products that are best for him, have been a lifeline. "The prices of food keep going up, up, up, up. But they're giving less, less, less, less. They expect people to survive. This Food Bank, it's a huge difference. It's a huge help. It really is."

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