

## 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.<sup>2</sup>
  - Since 2021, food prices have increased nationally by 25.5 percent; and, in 2023, Pennsylvania led the country in grocery price hikes.<sup>3</sup>

### 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.

**TEFAP** provided over 3.1 million meals for Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank in 2022.



**SNAP** helps 353,375 residents in our service area access nutritious foods.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> USDA, Economic Research Institute, [Food Security in the U.S.](#) (October 2023)









<sup>2</sup> Feeding America, ["Charitable Food Assistance Participation in 2022"](#) (June 2023)

<sup>3</sup> Consumer Affairs, ["The Rising Cost of Groceries by State \(2024\)"](#) (November 2023)

<sup>4</sup> Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, [Medical Assistance, Food Stamps and Cash Assistance statistics report](#) (December 2023)

### 3. Renew the Farm Bill with Investments

**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.**

| TEFAP   | SNAP  |
|---|---|
|  <p><b>Increase funding for TEFAP food purchases to \$500 million per year, adjusted for inflation.</b> This will double the funding provided under current law and help ensure food banks can serve everyone who comes through their doors.</p> |  <p><b>Ensure SNAP purchasing power remains strong so that benefits align with rising grocery prices and provide adequate support during tough economic times.</b> This will decrease the need for charitable food assistance, helping to reduce the strain on food banks.</p> |
|  <p><b>Increase funding for TEFAP storage and distribution to \$200 million per year.</b> This will help food banks offset the cost of storing and transporting USDA foods.</p>  |  <p><b>Simplify SNAP eligibility and enrollment</b> for older adults, college students, veterans, working families, immigrants and other people facing barriers.</p>   |
|  <p><b>Continue to provide \$15 million per year for TEFAP infrastructure grants.</b> This program helps expand the capacity and infrastructure of food banks in rural areas.</p>  |  <p><b>Improve assistance to individuals seeking employment</b> by supporting effective state employment and job training programs and ensuring people have access to SNAP benefits as they find work.</p>   |
|  <p><b>Boost funding for the TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Program,</b> which funds state projects to harvest, package and transport food donations from local farmers.</p>  |  <p><b>Allow Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories to participate fully in SNAP and extend flexibility to Native communities</b> to administer the program.</p>   |

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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