



2026 Policy Priorities

Feeding Pennsylvania is the state association of nine Feeding America food banks serving all 67 counties. Member food banks include CEO Weinberg Food Bank, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank, Mercer County Food Bank, Philabundance, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania, and Westmoreland Food Bank.

Our goal is to reduce hunger, improve food security, and ensure all Pennsylvanians have access to an adequate quantity of the high-quality, nutritious food they need to learn, grow, and thrive. We prioritize providing the nutrient-rich foods people facing hunger say they need, including fruits, vegetables, dairy and lean proteins. Our network's main mission is to provide emergency food relief to those most at risk of going hungry, but we also recognize the importance of addressing root causes that contribute to more people seeking food assistance. Our vision is a food-secure Pennsylvania where no one wonders where their next meal will come from.



Ensure Adequate Support for Pennsylvania's Charitable Food System

- Increase the annual budget appropriation for the **State Food Purchase Program (SFPP)** line-item to a total of **\$47 million**
 - **\$35 million** for 'core' SFPP
 - **\$11 million** for the **Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS)**
 - **\$1 million** for the **Senior Food Box Program**
- Maintain the **\$9.57 million** budget appropriation for the **Food Coupons** line-item to help reduce food waste and improve food access
- Reauthorize the **Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Tax Credit** at **\$72 million**
- Promote the recently enacted **HB 615**, which changed liability laws surrounding food donations, to encourage additional food donations from food retailers and manufacturers

Promote Food Access as a Social Determinant of Health

- Fully fund the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** and provide the Department of Human Services (DHS) with the necessary resources to **successfully administer the program and lower the error rate**
- **Enhance, protect, and strengthen state-administered federal nutrition programs**
- Collaborate with the Department of Agriculture (PDA) to promote and **increase participation in the PASS program**, which provides local, nutrient-dense foods to food banks for distribution
- Collaborate with DHS and the Department of Health (DOH) to **increase participation and improve the client experience in federal nutrition programs** like SNAP and WIC
- Collaborate with DHS and DOH to promote **'Food as Medicine'** initiatives such as medically tailored food boxes and nutrition education
- Support policies that **improve all Pennsylvanians' access to high-quality, nutritious food** whether they purchase it in a grocery store, a farmers' market, or visit a food pantry

Address Root Causes of Hunger

- Support policies that **mitigate root causes of hunger** such as poverty, lack of affordable housing, and chronic health conditions
- Partner with coalitions and organizations that advocate for root cause issues including housing, workforce, mental/physical health, and education
- Support **state-level tax incentives for families most at risk** of food insecurity including the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (WPTC)

Strengthen Federal Nutrition Programs

- Reauthorize the **Farm Bill** with strong supports for American farmers, producers, and consumers
- Advocate for **H.R.4782, the Local Farmers Feeding Our Communities Act**, and other policies that strengthen the connection between farmers, families, and food banks
- Strengthen federal food commodity programs like **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** and **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)**
- **Strengthen and modernize the SNAP**
- Enhance federal child nutrition programs like school meals, summer meals, and the **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

Feeding Pennsylvania opposes policies that create barriers to accessing food, limit neighbors' dignity, or negatively impact the long-term health and wellbeing of Pennsylvanians.

