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\$1 = 6 Meals



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Hunger is Everywhere - and It's Growing

Each year, Feeding America releases **Map the Meal Gap**, a powerful study that sheds light on the reality of food insecurity across the country. This year's findings are a sobering reminder that hunger knows no boundaries — and that our work is far from over.

- **Every single county in the U.S.** experiences food insecurity
- **86% of the hardest-hit counties are rural** — often with the fewest resources
- **Child food insecurity reaches nearly 50%** in some areas — meaning 1 in 2 children may not know where their next meal is coming from
- Throughout the 22 counties we serve, **food insecurity has increased by 5.64%**
- 234,610 people in eastern Michigan now struggling to access enough food

At the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, we are deeply grateful for this critical data. It gives us a clearer understanding of where help is needed most. But data alone doesn't feed families — **we do.**

As the need continues to rise, so must our efforts. With your continued support, we can ensure that no one in our community has to face hunger alone.

Join us. Together, we can close the meal gap.

For more information, visit www.feedingamerica.org/about-us/press-room/Map-the-Meal-Gap-2025



The Impact of Federal Funding on the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan



Federal funding plays a critical role in the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan's ability to serve communities across our 22-county region. These resources ensure that thousands of our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable, receive consistent access to nutritious food.

In the first half of 2025, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan assisted **217 individuals in applying for SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. This initiative is part of the Food Bank's commitment to combat food insecurity by ensuring that eligible residents can access essential food resources, reinforcing its mission to provide nourishment and hope to those in need. Unfortunately, the Food Bank

also experienced a 15% decrease in food supplies from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) compared to the same period last year. This decline includes the **abrupt cancellation of 21 semi-loads of food, valued at an estimated \$650,000.** These reductions are part of broader nationwide cuts to TEFAP funding, which have impacted food banks across Michigan and the United States.

A vital program for seniors supported by federal dollars is the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which provides monthly food boxes to low-income elders. Thanks to this funding, the Food Bank is able to deliver nutritious, shelf-stable food to **4,078 seniors** every month. For many, this is a lifeline that helps them stay healthy and independent.

In the summer months, when school meals are unavailable, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) becomes vital. With the help of federal support, we are able to provide approximately **80,000 meals to children during the summer** ensuring they have the nourishment they need to learn, grow, and thrive, even when school is out.

Behind every meal distributed is a complex network of logistics, partnerships, and dedicated staff and volunteers. Federal funding helps power the infrastructure—from refrigerated trucks and warehouse operations to food safety compliance and outreach coordination—that keeps this system running. These moving parts may not always be visible, but they are essential in our mission to feed our neighbors in need.

Simply put, federal funding doesn't just provide food—it **fuels the entire operation that makes hunger relief possible in eastern Michigan.**

Rapid Relief in Northern Michigan: A Testament to Teamwork and Community Strength

In the wake of the recent severe weather that swept through northern Michigan, more than **30,000 residents were left without power**—many facing extended periods without access to food, clean water, and other critical resources. Immediate action was essential.

Thanks to the extraordinary collaboration between the Michigan National Guard, local law enforcement, fire departments, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and our incredible response team, we were able to mobilize emergency relief swiftly and effectively.

Emergency water distribution efforts were led by the Onaway and Rogers City Fire Departments, the National Guard, and our team at the Food Bank.

Meijer generously stepped up with a **donation of 10,080 bottles of water and sandwich supplies to create 1,600 meals.** From our own warehouse, we also deployed **100 pallets—76,800 bottles—of Zen Water** to help meet urgent needs across affected communities.

This effort was a powerful reminder of what's possible when communities unite in times of crisis. Thank you to every individual and partner who played a role in delivering hope and aid to our neighbors in need.



Celebrating Retail Partnerships That Fight Hunger

We're proud to partner with **186 retail stores** across our service area—including Walmart, Target, Kroger, Meijer, Sam's Club, Costco, ALDI, Dollar General, Family Fare, Save-A-Lot, and Gordon Food Service. These partnerships are essential in our mission to fight hunger and provide nutritious food to our neighbors in need.



Recently, our team had the honor of attending the grand opening of the new ALDI in Davison, located at 7480 E. Court Street. **ALDI** has been a strong partner in our retail store donation program, and this year alone, ALDI locations in our region have **donated 350,000 pounds of food**—the equivalent of **291,667 meals** for local families.

We also celebrated another exciting milestone: the grand opening of the new Costco in Flint, located at 6200 LaFontaine Way. With two Costco locations now in our service area, their contributions have made a major impact. So far this year, **Costco** has **donated 220,000 pounds of food**, helping us provide **183,333 meals** to the community.

We're incredibly grateful for the continued generosity of our retail partners. Together, we're making a real difference in the lives of thousands across eastern Michigan.

Advocating for Hunger Relief in Washington, D.C.

From March 4–5, FBEM's Chief Programs Officer William Farkas and Chief Development Officer Crystal Travis traveled to Washington, D.C., to represent the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan at National Fly-In Day. Joined by colleagues from the Food Bank Council of Michigan and other food bank leaders across the state, they met with Congressional offices to advocate for vital federal nutrition programs like **TEFAP** (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) and **SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). These programs are essential in our fight against hunger, and FBEM remains committed to ensuring strong support for the families we serve.

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100% of donations help provide fresh Michigan milk to local families in need.

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FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

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REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Recognizing Two Dedicated Food Bankers: Employees of the Month



This past April, in recognition of the extraordinary challenges faced by our northern region outreach team, we are proud to honor not one, but two outstanding individuals as our Employees of the Month.

When a powerful ice storm swept through Alpena and surrounding areas—bringing 60 mph winds, freezing rain, hail, and widespread damage—residents were left with downed trees, grass fires sparked by power lines, and significant disruptions. In the heart of this emergency, Courtney Holmes and Katie Bondie rose to the occasion.

Thanks to their rapid response, unwavering dedication, and compassionate leadership, Courtney and Katie played a critical role in ensuring that emergency food relief reached those who needed it most. Working closely with local responders and partner agencies, they embodied the values of service, courage, and teamwork.

We are incredibly proud to recognize Courtney and Katie for their heroic efforts and lasting impact during this time of need.

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2024 Annual Meeting Highlights: Celebrating Partners Making a Difference

At our recent Annual Meeting, we reflected on a remarkable year of partnership and progress in the fight against hunger. We were delighted to honor several outstanding partners for their extraordinary contributions.

Annual Meeting Awardees

Community Leadership Award Winners:
HAP Caresource and Rolls Mechanical

HAP CareSource has consistently gone above and beyond—volunteering in our warehouse, and generously sponsoring key initiatives like Empty Bowls and Hunger Action Month. Their hands-on involvement truly makes a difference. Rolls Mechanical has also shown outstanding support, nominating the Food Bank for the **\$10,000 Rheem Difference Maker Award—which we proudly received!** They've also played a vital role in our holiday campaign, raising an impressive **\$16,500 through ornament sales.**

Partner Leadership Award Winners:
MCFAN and Harbor Impact Ministries

Both the Midland County Food Assistance Network (MCFAN) and Harbor Impact Ministries exemplify what it means to be dedicated partners. Reliable, proactive, and deeply engaged, these organizations are vital to our network—working tirelessly to serve as many people as possible with compassion and care.

Philanthropic Leadership Award Winners:
PNC Foundation and FWOGC

The PNC Foundation continues to support our work through generous funding and impactful grants, helping us expand our reach and strengthen our programs. Freedom Works of Genesee County (FWOGC) leads with heart, consistently volunteering their time while empowering individuals with disabilities through job readiness and workforce training.

Fresh Leadership Award Winner:
Valley Farms

Craig and Chris Brandt, owners of Valley Farms, have gone above and beyond, donating an astounding 5.3 million pounds of fresh produce over the years. Their commitment has helped bring more fresh, nutritious food to tables across our region and made a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our communities.

Edward A. Mitchell Million Pound Club Award Winner:
Costco of Midland

Costco of Midland has been a key partner in our mission, working alongside the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and our partner agencies to reduce food waste. Since 2020, Costco has donated an impressive 1.3 million pounds of food, making a significant impact in the fight against hunger in our community.

We're deeply grateful for every partner who stands with us to end hunger and strengthen our communities. Here's to another impactful year ahead!

