



Case for Support 2023

In every county and every town of Western Massachusetts, our neighbors are experiencing food insecurity and hunger. In partnership with over 160 independent food pantries, shelters, and meal sites across the region, The Food Bank seeks to end hunger for today and for the future.

Everyone Has A Right To Healthy Food

Food has a critical impact on people's lives, bringing families together and creating social and economic stability in our communities. People experiencing food insecurity live in a storm of uncertainty about where their next meal will come from. For some, this can mean rationing their meals so their children can have enough to eat. For others, it can look like skipping meals entirely for days or weeks at a time to save money for other expenses such as rent, utilities, and medical bills. Children, elders, people with disabilities, veterans, households on minimum-wage incomes – these are just some of the people who depend on The Food Bank for stable access to food.

It Takes More Than Food To End Hunger

In addition to food distribution, the Food Bank addresses the underlying causes of food insecurity through SNAP outreach, nutrition education, public education, and advocacy. Our Food Insecurity Screening and Referral Initiative (FISRI) has expanded its partnerships with local health centers and hospitals to screen patients for food insecurity and refer them to the resources they need. Finally, our newest Food Bank Farm will grow more organic vegetables for households at risk of hunger and include exciting farm-to-school partnerships with the Springfield and Holyoke Public Schools.



Now More Than Ever, Collaboration Is Important

The rising cost of food is creating new challenges for The Food Bank and the people we serve. Our ability to consistently source healthy food is impacted by events like the war in Ukraine, extreme weather conditions impacting farming, a bird flu epidemic, and major trucking delays. Finding ways to increase the amount of food we distribute, as well as providing fresh produce and culturally relevant foods to communities that have access to neither is harder than ever.

Last year, The Food Bank distributed 13.9 million pounds of food to an average of 92,000 people every month. With continued job instability, inflation, and anticipated cuts to federal assistance programs, this number will increase in the coming year.

With Every Dollar You Donate, We Can Provide The Equivalent Of 3 Meals

This is down from previous years, when one dollar allowed us to provide the equivalent of four meals. Not surprisingly, the increase in grocery prices and other reasons cited here have reduced the food equivalency of a one-dollar donation. In the wake of this increase, the key to ensuring our network remains resilient is in ensuring our flexibility. By diversifying where we source food, we can make smart decisions about what avenues best serve the communities we work within – including redirecting resources in the local economy by buying produce from local farmers.



We End Hunger Together

Our new, larger, greener food distribution center and headquarters in the city of Chicopee will be operational in fall of this year. Together, we are building community for a common purpose – to create a Western Massachusetts where no one faces food insecurity, and everyone has access to nutritious food.

We invite you to be a part of our work by donating to The Food Bank. Your donation will enable us to address the challenge of food insecurity in our region, in this time and for generations to come.

