

## FARM BILL 2023:

# Help End Hunger in Our Community

The farm bill is federal legislation that governs many nutrition and agriculture programs, and it is up for renewal in 2023. 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.

## Feeding Indiana's Hungry urges Congress to support and strengthen our nation's nutrition and agriculture programs in the 2023 Farm Bill.

### 1. Understand the Scale of Hunger in America

- Hunger exists in every county, parish and borough in the United States. Nearly 34 million people, including more than 9 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 53 million people turned to the charitable food sector for help in 2021.<sup>2</sup>
  - In 2022, food prices increased by 9.9%. Experts expect prices to keep rising in 2023.<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.<sup>4</sup>

**TEFAP** provided over 22 million meals in Indiana in 2022.



**SNAP** helps 11% of Hoosiers access nutritious foods.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, [Poverty in the United States: 2021](#)

<sup>2</sup> Feeding America, ["Charitable Food Assistance Participation in 2021"](#) (June 2022)

<sup>3</sup> USDA Economic Research Institute, [Food Price Outlook](#) (February 2023)

<sup>4</sup> TEFAP data from Feeding America distribution reports. SNAP data from [ESSA Monthly Management Report](#) average monthly enrollment for CY 22.

### 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



**Increase funding for TEFAP food purchases to \$500 million per year**, adjusted for inflation. This will double the funding provided under current law and help ensure food banks can serve everyone who comes through their doors.



**Increase funding for TEFAP storage and distribution to \$200 million per year.** This will help food banks offset the cost of storing and transporting USDA foods.



**Continue to provide \$15 million per year for TEFAP infrastructure grants.** This program helps expand the capacity and infrastructure of food banks in rural areas.



**Boost funding for the TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Program**, which funds state projects to harvest, package and transport food donations from local farmers.

#### SNAP



**Ensure SNAP purchasing power remains strong so that benefits align with rising grocery prices and provide adequate support during tough economic times.** This will decrease the need for charitable food assistance, helping to reduce the strain on food banks.



**Simplify SNAP eligibility and enrollment** for older adults, college students, veterans, working families, immigrants and other people facing barriers.



**Improve assistance to individuals seeking employment** by supporting effective state employment and job training programs and ensuring people have access to SNAP benefits as they find work.



**Allow Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories to participate fully in SNAP and extend flexibility to Native communities** to administer the program.

***“When you’re hit financially, you’re just without and there’s nothing more scary than when you’ve got to figure out how to feed your kids.”***

– **Jake**

