FOOD SECURITY AND COVID-19
1. Hunger in America
Before COVID-19
Hunger in America

37M Americans Struggle to Afford the Food They Need

11.2M Children

5.5M Seniors

That’s 37 million too many

That’s 37 million too many
No matter where we live, our age, the color of our skin, who we love, or any other way we might identify ourselves, hunger affects every community.
Where You Live Matters

Hunger, Resources, Opportunities and Cost of Living Vary Widely by County

Food Insecurity Rates

- 4-14%
- 15-19%
- 20-24%
- 25-29%
- 30% +
Making Tough Choices

Feeding America’s clients report that their household income is inadequate to cover their basic household expenses.

- **69%** have had to choose between paying for utilities and food.
- **67%** have had to choose between paying for transportation and food.
- **66%** have had to choose between paying for medicine and food.
- **57%** have had to choose between paying for housing and food.

Sources: Map the Meal Gap (2014) and Hunger in America (2014)
Hunger Creates an Unhealthy Cycle

Of households our network serves...

79% Purchase Inexpensive, Unhealthy Food

58% Report a member with high blood pressure

33% Report a member with diabetes

- Food Insecurity
- Stretching the Budget
  Purchasing inexpensive, unhealthy food
- Increased Health Care Expenditures
- Diet Related Disease
  High blood pressure, diabetes
- Fluctuations In Weight And Blood Sugar
Food Insecurity = Higher Healthcare Costs

- More chronic disease treatment
- More diabetes hospitalizations
- More hospital readmissions
- High-Cost User status associated with food insecurity
- Food insecure patients cost health care system $1,863 more per year

Food Insecurity $77.5 billion in additional health care costs per year
Who We Are
We Are Feeding America

200 MEMBER FOOD BANKS

1 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

60K FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL PROGRAMS

= MORE THAN 45M AMERICANS SERVED ANNUALLY
A Decade of Growth

77% more people served

160% more meals provided
Feeding America Food Banks Serve Every County in the U.S.
How We Work

Food banks were created as a community solution to the challenges of poverty, hunger and food waste.
The food bank model has evolved over time in response to the complex challenges of increasing social and economic inequality in the U.S.

Today, food banks are at the intersection of the social, health, economic, environmental and education sectors. Our national food bank network provides local, long-term stability solutions.
We Lead in Times of Disaster

Local Feeding America food banks are on the ground in every county, providing food, water and supplies to help people cope.

- 10 million square feet of warehouse space nationwide store food for distribution
- 200 food banks serve all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico
- 2,600 vehicles are ready to respond
- 60,000 Food Programs serve every county in the country
- 2 million volunteers are ready to help
- 86% of food banks operate mobile pantry programs that help deliver food to hard-to-reach communities
3 COVID-19 Impact, Response, Recovery
Initial COVID-19 Response

Launched the COVID-19 Response Fund, a national food- and fund-raising effort to support people facing hunger and the food banks who help them.

Built an inventory of emergency food boxes that are distributed to food banks across the country as the need for food assistance increases.

Provided emergency grants to food banks to support local response efforts.

Safely distributed food, non-food and household items like cleaning supplies, diapers and personal care products.
Impact Assessment: COVID-19 Challenges

17.1MM more people will need food assistance, a 46% increase
Sourcing by the Numbers
Distribution by the Numbers

Total network pounds distributed, weekly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Pounds of food (millions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar-15</td>
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<td>Apr-26</td>
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- **2020 Total**
- **2019 Weekly Average**
Network Testimonials

“We don’t have the strength or the financial capacity to hoard,” they said. “We only have money for groceries for the next two days.”

— San Antonio Food Bank
San Antonio, TX

“I have a son with disabilities. He has a special diet, certain foods upset his stomach and his overall health. It’s a tragic thing when you wait in a line to get into a store for hours, struggle through the crowds and then turn to the aisle you need and there’s nothing.”

— San Jose Food Bank
San Jose, CA
Impact Assessment: COVID-19 Challenges

• Increased demand for charitable food
• Declines in donations
• Increased operating and distribution costs
• Decreased Volunteer Support
COVID-19 Impact: What the data show

Feeding America is conducting a bi-weekly survey to network food bank leadership which allows us to keep a pulse on the increasing needs across the network.

- 98% of food banks report an increase in demand for food assistance, with an average increase of 63%.
- 59% of food banks report a decrease in inventory from the same time last year.
- 95% of food banks report an increase in operating expenses, with an average increase of 31%.
- 67% of food banks report that they are accepting and need volunteer support.

In order to meet the increasing demand, the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks will need an estimated $1.4 billion over the next six months to provide food to people facing hunger and to sustain and quickly evolve operations amidst the COVID-19 crisis.
Emerging Concerns

Workplace Health and Safety
Mental Health and Wellbeing
High Risk Populations
Rural Communities
Racial Disparities
Healthcare Frontline Staff
Health and Nutrition COVID-19 Response

www.hungerandhealth.org

Feeding America Public Health Task Force
- Work Groups
- Emerging Practices
- Technical Assistance

Healthcare Partnerships
- Payers
- Health Systems
- Associations
- Academia

Research
- Epidemiology
- Economic trends
- Children
- Disparities
- Disease Management

Feeding the Frontline
- World Health Kitchen
- Health and Safety Protocols
Sample Public Health Resources

Social Distancing

Everyone has a role to play in slowing the speed of coronavirus. Social distancing means remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance from others when possible.

At a minimum:
- Maintain a distance of approximately 6 feet
- Require sick staff and volunteers to stay home
- Older adults and those with chronic underlying health conditions should stay home
- Set up flexible work hours and schedules (e.g., staggered shifts) to limit the number of people gathered at one time

Consider establishing additional policies and practices to promote social distancing:
- Implement flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts)
- Increasing physical space between employees at the worksite
- Increasing physical space between employees and clients (e.g., drive through, partitions)
- Delivering products through curbside pick-up or delivery

Decisions and criteria for social distancing may differ by state and local levels, therefore it is important to understand local public health policies and procedures.

Source: CDC

Cleaning & Disinfectant Practices

Maintaining a clean working environment ensures the health and safety of food bank staff, volunteers, and clients. Properly disinfecting surfaces daily, including at distribution sites and frequently touched surfaces, is important to do on a regular basis.

Allocate time to thoroughly clean the entire food bank and other commonly used places by food bank employees and clients daily.

Cleaning surfaces: If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of spreading germs and disease.

To disinfect: Use diluted household bleach solutions and alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol. Make sure the product is not past its expiration date, otherwise the solutions will be ineffective against bacteria and viruses. Never mix ammonia with other cleaners.

- EPA approved products can be found here.

If someone is ill and comes to the food bank, close off the areas in which the ill person had been, wait as long as possible to enter the space, 24 hours when possible. Clean and disinfect all surfaces, especially frequently touched surfaces.

When cleaning, wear personal protective equipment such as gloves and an apron, make sure to wash your hands once you dispose of your PPE.

Source: CDC
COVID-19 Recovery

To overcome ongoing supply chain shortages in our national and local food supplies, Feeding America is building a comprehensive food purchase initiative that offers national pricing for food, delivers food in an easily distributable format and provides our food banks with assistance in the distribution of that food.

The Feeding America government relations team and network will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the needs of hungry families are represented in all legislative efforts related to this crisis.

Our team of experts in the national office will continue to provide a range of resources to support food banks as they meet soaring needs in their communities while facing unprecedented operational hurdles.
Key Messages for Recovery

Equity Matters

Partnerships are Essential

Brighter Days are Ahead
SOLVING HUNGER TODAY
ENDING HUNGER TOMORROW

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