



# TEFAP in America

## 2018 Farm Bill

The United States is built on traditions of independence and opportunity, along with a strong sense of community responsibility. Men and women work hard to support their families and that of their neighbors. For decades, hunger has prevented our country from reaching its full potential. Our food banks have seen this worsen as many of our struggling neighbors are left out of the economic recovery. Our communities suffer when one in eight Americans struggle to afford enough to eat and can't function at their best in school and at work.

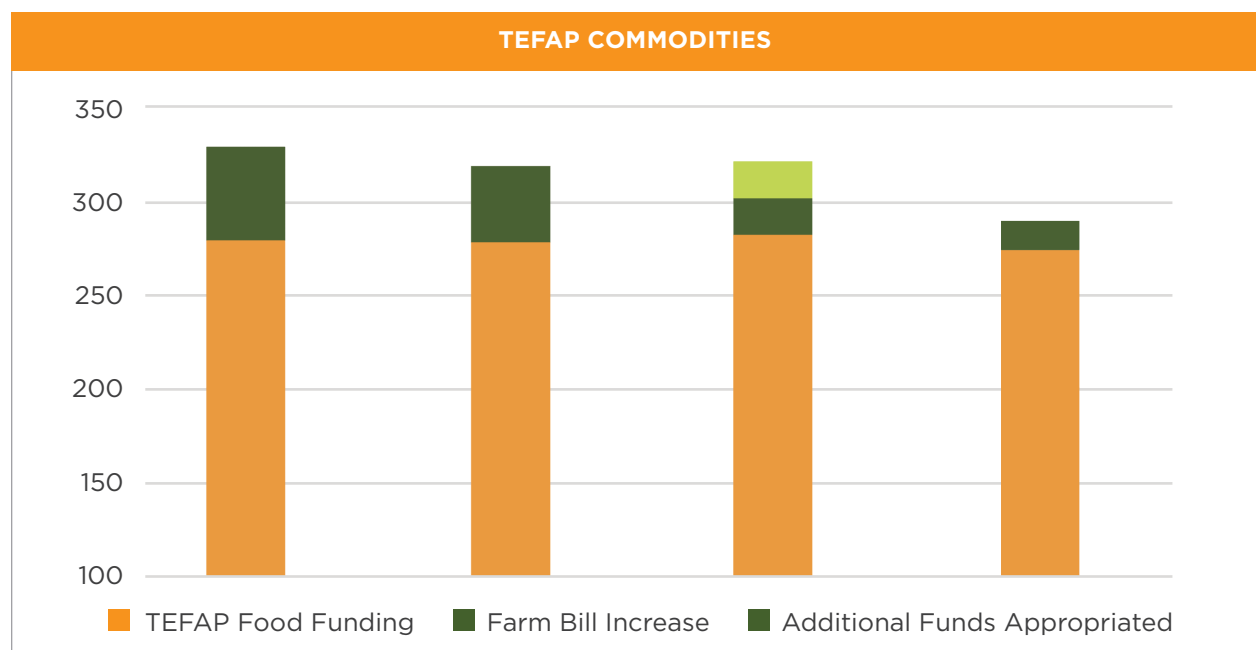
Together, we can end hunger in the United States. Effective federal nutrition programs, like The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), provide nourishment to low-income Americans through food banks. Congress can do more to ensure that TEFAP provides food banks with a consistent and dependable food supply by increasing the TEFAP food and storage and distribution funding levels.

### TEFAP is a cornerstone of the food supply for national network of food banks

The Feeding America network of food banks relies on TEFAP as well as the donations of surplus nutritious food from donors in the agriculture, food manufacturing, retail, and food service fields to provide over 4.2 billion meals a year to people in need. TEFAP is the backbone of the charitable food system - providing almost 20% of the food that was distributed through local hunger-relief agencies last year.

In the United States today, 41 million individuals are food insecure. Despite low unemployment, millions of families are struggling to pay bills and do not always know where their next meal will come from. Food banks across the country continue to serve more people while donations and critical food sources have tightened.

The 2014 Farm Bill included increased funding for TEFAP food for fiscal years 2015 through 2018. With need remaining at high levels, we urge Congress to provide \$350 million a year for TEFAP food in the next Farm Bill, ensuring the 2014 Farm Bill TEFAP increases are maintained.



## Appropriations Legislation must provide strong funding

TEFAP storage and distribution funds are another important source of support for food banks. The funds are authorized in the farm bill, with the funding levels provided through congressional appropriations each year.

For years now, Congress has appropriated these critical funds at just over half of the authorized level of \$100 million annually. Last year, TEFAP Storage and Distribution's funding only covered 22% of the cost of distributing TEFAP commodities - leaving food banks to bridge the gap.

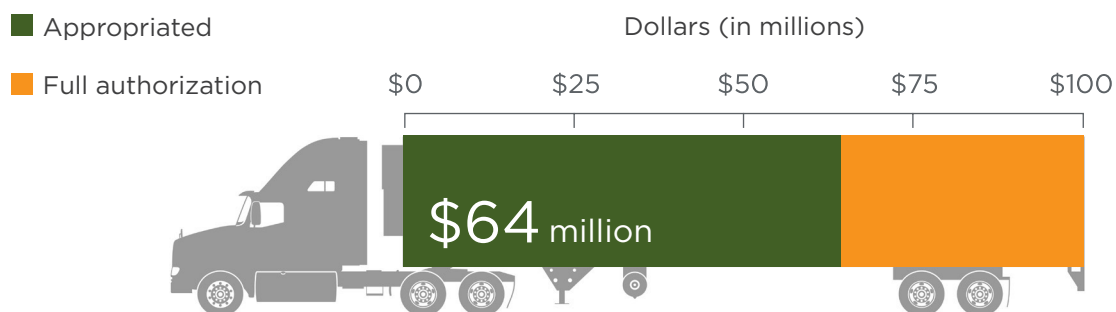
Congress and the Administration must recognize the burden this places on food banks and fully fund TEFAP storage and distribution in FY 2019 appropriations legislation.

**Congress must make strong new investments in TEFAP food purchase and storage and distribution funds to help ensure food banks can meet the need in their communities.**

*Increased TEFAP funding will help give struggling families the opportunity to succeed and thrive.*

### FUEL FOR HALF THE TRIP

National appropriated funds for TEFAP storage and distribution were **a little more than half** of what was authorized in FY2018.



## Congress can help food banks and hungry families

Ending hunger in our country requires a strong public/private partnership, with proven and effective federal programs working in tandem with food banks. Our government can make great strides through legislative and administrative action. During consideration of the 2018 farm bill and FY2019 appropriations legislation, Congress and the Administration must seize the opportunity to increase investments in TEFAP food and fully fund storage and transportation assistance.

By ending hunger in the United States, we restore opportunity and independence for all. This is how our country will reach its full potential.

