



## **2025 Policy Priorities and Positions**

### **Where We Stand:**

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's work will always include the emergency distribution of nutritious food; however, to end hunger, we must advance policies that address the root causes of food insecurity and poverty.

The Regional Food Bank supports legislative priorities that reflect the needs of our neighbors. We will continue to amplify the voices of our neighbors impacted by food insecurity and our partner agencies who provide essential services to our neighbors. We endorse policies that promote thriving communities, ensuring that all Oklahomans have access to nutritious food and economic stability.

### **What We Support:**

#### **State:**

Tier 1 – We actively work on these priorities.

- Policies that ensure children are well-nourished year-round such as:
  - Ensuring the state administers the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (Summer EBT) program.
  - Guaranteeing the free and reduced-price lunch eligibility threshold meets the needs of families across the state.
- Increasing access to nutritious food by:
  - Incentivizing nutritious food donations to food banks and food pantries.
  - Drawing down federal funding that supports nutritious food purchases for charitable organizations.
- Streamlining and increasing access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for eligible Oklahomans.

- Increasing neighbors' ability to attain economic security through:
  - Funding for job training programs administered by nonprofit organizations statewide.
  - Policies that enact living wages for Oklahomans.
  - Policies that address the benefits cliff.

Tier 2 – We work on these priorities in coalition with other organizations.

- Leveraging Medicaid to improve access to nutritious food.
- Addressing transportation inadequacies to remove barriers to access for our neighbors.
- Implementing policies that meet the demand for affordable housing and promote equitable access to said housing.
- Policies that address the conditions that cause food insecurity.

**Federal:**

Tier 1

- Bolstering and removing red tape from federal nutrition programs such as:
  - Lifting the congregate meal requirement to ensure equitable access to food for children during the summer months.
  - Streamlining the SNAP eligibility and enrollment processes.
  - Expanding SNAP purchasing power to include hot and prepared foods.
  - Maintaining the thrifty food plan adjustment for SNAP benefits.
  - Reauthorizing and increasing annual mandatory funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food purchases.
  - Fully fund and strengthen TEFAP storage and distribution account.
  - Maintaining the funding flexibility Commodity Credit Corporation and Section 32 authority provide.
  - Simplifying paperwork requirements for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.
  - Making the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) permanent.
  - Protecting and expanding Women, Infant and Children (WIC) funding.

## Tier 2

- Advancing policies that promote economic security for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity in Oklahoma by:
  - Making the child tax credit expansion permanent and maintaining full refundability.
  - Continuing the expansion and full refundability of the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Integrating nutrition and health.
  - Advancing policies that support medically tailored home-delivered meals to vulnerable populations.

### **What We Oppose:**

- Policies, legislation or rules that create barriers and inequitable access to food assistance.
- Legislation that reduces funding of core services and programs that aid Oklahomans in need.