

Feeding Texas Spotlight

Feeding Texas Legislative Agenda to Strengthen Food Bank and Partner Agency Access to Healthy Foods

Feeding Texas, formerly known as the Texas Food Bank Network (TFBN) is a statewide, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Its mission is to lead a unified effort for a hunger-free Texas. It moves millions of hungry Texans toward food security through a statewide network of food banks; strengthens the collective response to hunger through collaboration and scaling success; and leads the public conversation needed to solve hunger in Texas.

Over the next year, Feeding Texas plans on expanding its advocacy network to include food bank Partner Agencies and grasstop organizations. During the 84th Texas legislative session, Feeding Texas will ask the state legislature to fund "[Feeding With Impact](#)." If the network is successful, Feeding Texas will be able to significantly increase the amount of funding food banks have to purchase produce and expand distribution, including expanding the [Brighter Bites program](#).

Feeding Texas invites you to participate in its advocacy efforts and help expand the amount of produce you can provide to your community. There are three easy ways you can get involved.

1. [Sign up for their monthly newsletter](#).
2. [Learn more about Feeding With Impact](#).
3. Contact your legislators and tell them food banks need more money for produce. Don't know who your state legislators are? [Find them here](#).

For more information, email Betsy Edwards, at bedwards@feedingtexas.org or call 512-527-3621.

Latest News & Reminders

USDA Commodities for January and February

For Agencies eligible to receive commodities from the United States Department of Agriculture we anticipate receiving these items in the coming months:

January

- Frozen Blueberries
- Canned Salmon
- 2 Trucks of Grape Juice
- 4 Trucks of Chicken Leg Quarters
- Peaches
- Diced Tomatoes
- 1% Milk
- Applesauce
- Spinach
- Pinto Beans
- Rice
- Green Beans
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Spaghetti
- Corn Flakes

February

- 2 Trucks of Grape Juice
- 2 Trucks of Chicken Leg Quarters
- 1% Milk
- Applesauce
- Pinto Beans
- Spinach
- Rice
- Diced Tomatoes
- Green Beans
- Corn Flakes
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Spaghetti

REMINDER | Monthly Reports Due by January 15

Please submit your December monthly reports no later than January 15 to avoid being placed on hold.

All reports must now be submitted online using our new and improved web forms. Please update your bookmarks and saved website links to <https://www.austinfoodbank.org/agencies/reporting>.

Reports are due on the first of the month for the month prior but you have until the 15th of each month to avoid being placed on "hold" status.

Latest News & Reminders (continued)

POLICY REVIEW | Food Storage

Proper food storage reduces food waste and keeps food safe for your clients. This is what we'll check for at your next annual inspection:

- Food must be kept at least 6 inches off the ground
- Food storage area should only hold product that is distributed to clients
- Food may only be stored at a Food Bank approved location
- Food should be kept in a secured and locked area
- Food should be kept in a clean and dry environment
- Always remember: first in, first out!

REMINDER | Are your food safety and civil rights trainings up to date?

We require at least one person from your agency to attend annual food safety training and Civil Rights training. If you take a class through an online provider, please send us copies of your certificate.

If your agency's training is expired, you will be placed on hold and will not receive food until your training is updated. Don't know when your training expires? Call the Food Bank at 512-282-2111, and an agency relations representative will tell you.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Regional Training
Tuesday, January 13
11:00 A.M. — 1:00 P.M.
Harker Heights Food Center
100 E. Ruby
Harker Heights, TX 76548

Austin/Travis County
Monday, January 26
1:00 P.M. — 3:00 P.M.
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas
8201 S. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78745

Tuesday, February 10
11:00 A.M. — 1:00 P.M.
Abundant Life Church
1210 Florence Road, Killeen, TX 76541

RSVP to agencies@austinfoodbank.org.

Latest News & Reminders (continued)

NUTRITION | Simple Cooking Made Delicious

Sometimes we feel in order for a meal to be a success, it has to have multiple ingredients to be “fancy.” That is definitely not the case with CHOICES class participants who are looking for simplicity in a recipe. Read the article here: <https://www.austinfoodbank.org/news/simple-cooking-made-delicious>

Contact the Team

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Heath Ribordy	Agency Relations Manager	512-282-2503	hribordy@austinfoodbank.org
Kara Prior	Agency Relations Capacity Specialist	512-282-2508	kprior@austinfoodbank.org
Karsten Darden	Agency Compliance Specialist	512-282-2505	kdarden@austinfoodbank.org
Melanie Frank	Retail Program Specialist	512-282-2523	mfrank@austinfoodbank.org