



FY25 At a Glance: North Texas Food Bank

The number of people facing hunger in North Texas is equivalent to the number of fans it would take to fill AT&T Stadium, where the Dallas Cowboys play, nine times. That means **1 in 6 people (or 744,000) in the 12 counties served by the North Texas Food Bank and 1 in 5 children are food insecure.***

That data from Feeding America's latest *Map the Meal Gap* report represents hunger in 2023 and reflects the higher level of need that NTFB and its partners have been seeing over the last few years. Unfortunately, we know the greater level of need continued in Fiscal Year 25 (July 2024-June 2025).

Although unemployment has remained stable, inflation led neighbors in every ZIP code to be faced with difficult choices of whether to pay for groceries or their rent, utilities or medical bills. **In Dallas, rent is up nearly 30% over the last five years** and the price of a typical home sold increased more than 40%, according to an analysis by Zillow. **Groceries increased 22% during that same period**, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the prices of some staples spiking much higher.

NTFB continues to be driven by the same belief that inspired our founders in 1982: **No one deserves to be hungry.**

In FY25, NTFB, in partnership with its two redistribution hubs and nearly 500 partners, **distributed 116 million physical meals, of which nearly 106 million were nutritious. Additionally, NTFB's Social Services Assistance team enabled 20.6 million meals through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).**

NTFB also closed its five-year Nourish North Texas strategic plan in FY25. During that time, **the food bank finished ahead of its \$500 million fundraising goal** with \$234 million in funds raised plus over \$300 million in food product donated, \$50 million committed toward our endowment and more than \$5 million in in-kind gifts and volunteer hours. As part of that plan, we also doubled our distribution of food and began **exploring programs and partnerships that provide hope for tomorrow by addressing the underlying barriers to food security.** That included the growth of our **FoodRx program, advocating for anti-hunger policies, learning from our neighbors and supporting our partners** with grants as they add or expand holistic services such as job skills training, financial coaching or health care.

Those learnings have also led us to our next chapter. Along with support from Boston Consulting Group, NTFB spent most of FY25 gathering input from stakeholders, establishing priorities and evaluating the investment needed to achieve our goals. The result is a vision we've cast for the next five years known as **Fulfilling Futures.** The plan calls on us **to fulfill 80% of the need in every ZIP code we serve** by harnessing our scale to more dynamically serve our neighbors and our partners, for the long-term.

** Food insecurity is a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life which often equates to missed meals or unhealthy options.*

***Source: Feeding America Map the Meal Gap, 2025*

Hunger in North Texas**

- **For the second consecutive year, Texas has the largest number of people facing hunger in the nation**, with nearly 5.4 million people who are food insecure, according to Feeding America's latest *Map the Meal Gap* study. Sadly, **33% of those people are children**.
- **The Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex**, which includes the 25 counties served by NTFB and Tarrant Area Food Bank, **is the third highest in the nation for the number of people facing hunger**, falling behind only L.A. and New York. **In DFW, 1.3 million people, or 1 in 6, do not always know where their next nutritious meal will come from.**
- **In the 12 counties served by NTFB, 1 in 6 people and 1 in 5 children face hunger. That means there are 744,370 individuals who are food insecure**, making NTFB's service area the **8th highest in the country** among areas served by Feeding America food banks.
- The number of food insecure people in North Texas would fill the **American Airlines Center** (home to the Mavericks and Stars) over **35 times**, or **AT&T Stadium** (home of the Cowboys) **more than 9 times**. That is enough people to fill AT&T Stadium for every home game the Cowboys will play in 2025.
- **The food insecurity rate for NTFB's service area is 16.1%**, up from 14.6% the previous year and just 12% in 2021. The national rate is 14.5%.
- Hunger continues to be especially pronounced among North Texas children. Tragically, **34% of those who are food insecure in NTFB's service area are children**. An estimated **254,420 children, or 1 in 5, face hunger** in our area. That's equivalent to nearly the entire population of Plano.
- **Texas has the highest number of food-insecure seniors in the nation**, surpassing California and Florida for the first time, with an estimated 788,324 people 60 and older facing hunger. That equates to a **13.6% food insecurity rate**, up from 9.8% in 2022. **Texas also ranks No. 1 in hunger among older adults**, or those aged 50-59, with 573,049 older adults experiencing food insecurity, or 16.2%.
- **The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex ranks sixth in terms of the number of seniors experiencing food insecurity**, with 119,800 adults older than 60 facing hunger, which equates to a food insecurity rate of 9.2%.
- There continues to be disparities in who faces hunger. In NTFB's services area:
 - **42% of those who are food insecure are Hispanic** (316,803 or 1 in 5 Hispanic persons)
 - **33% of those who are food insecure are Black** (249,757 or 1 in 3 Black persons)
 - **25% of those who are food insecure are White, non-Hispanic** (184,285 or 1 in 10 White, non-Hispanic persons)
- **Dallas County makes up about 61% of NTFB's food-insecure population**, followed by Collin County at 20%.
- Dallas County has the **5th highest number of food insecure persons** and the **5th highest number of food insecure children** in the nation and a food insecurity rate of 17.4%.
- There are also critical needs in the rural counties NTFB serves. **Lamar County has a food insecurity rate of 20.1%**, Navarro County a rate of 19.2% and Delta County a rate of 17.7%.
- Of those facing hunger in our service area, **49% have a family income over the threshold required to qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.**

NTFB By the Numbers for FY25

- **Sources of Funds:** 39% Individuals, 20% Government Grants and Fees, 24% Corporations, 13% Foundations, 3% Organizations, 1% Agency Handling Fees and other.
- **Sources of Food:** 60% Donations, 19% Government Hunger Relief Programs, 18% Purchased, 3% Purchased – Government Funds
- **Distribution of Food:** 94% Partner Agencies, 3% Senior Programs, 3% Children’s Programs
- **Distribution of Resources:** 94% Food Bank Operations, 4% Fundraising, 2% Management and General
- **Distribution by Food Type:** 53% Shelf stable and other core items, 32% Fresh produce, 15% Protein

Food for Today

Food Distribution

- In FY25, NTFB distributed **116.1 million total physical meals, of which 105.6 million (or 91%) were nutritious meals** in partnership with our Agency Network and our generous supporters. **That was the most physical meals distributed in our history.**
- Additionally, NTFB provided access to **20.6 million meals through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).**
- In FY25, NTFB focused on increasing the amount of produce available for neighbors. The result was that **produce comprised 32% of all food distributed.** In total, **45 million pounds of fresh produce was distributed.**
- NTFB provides neighbors with food in partnership with its two redistribution hubs, Crossroads Community Services and Sharing Life, as well as nearly **500 partner food pantries and community organizations** in neighborhoods where children, families and older adults facing hunger work and live. About 24% of nutritious food distributed goes through the two redistribution hubs and their on-site pantries.
- In FY25, **94%** of NTFB’s food was distributed through our feeding network – **more than 131M pounds.**
- NTFB’s fleet travels **over 4.4 million miles annually to deliver food to partner pantries and to pick up food from donors**, such as retail stores. The fleet includes 12 long-haul semi-trucks, 11 53-foot refrigerated trailers, eight refrigerated box trucks, four produce pods and the SNAP Mobile.

Mobile Food Distribution

- In FY25, **5.3 million meals were distributed** through partner-enabled mobile distributions—a **1.3 million meal increase from FY24.**
- **NTFB partners with Catholic Charities of Dallas, which operates more than 100 mobile sites over six days each week.** The partnership has meant expanded access for our neighbors as Catholic Charities is in more locations across our service area and also holds distributions on Saturdays.

Nourish the Future Child Programs

- Through programs and partnerships, NTFB provided **children facing hunger** with more than **41 million** physical meals.

- During the 2024-2025 school year, **NTFB's 43 School Pantry sites provided nearly 2.6 million meals.** Six of those pantries were new thanks to partnerships with Lancaster ISD, Plano ISD and Paris Junior College. Pantries operate at elementary, middle and high schools as well as at **19 college campuses.**
- Along with those 43 School Pantries that operated throughout the school year, NTFB and its partners hosted **14 special events and distributions for students and their families.**
- **The Food 4 Kids backpack program provided more than 720,000 meals. The initiative operates at 255 schools and serves an average of 5,500 children facing hunger each week.** The bags are given out on Fridays and include nutritious, nonperishable, kid-friendly food meant to ensure students have enough to eat when they're home over the weekend.
- **Fourteen of the 19 college pantries are at Dallas College campuses.** In a survey of students in the Dallas College system, **65% said they were food insecure at some point during their college career.** Dallas College offers access to food as well as other basic needs services, such as counseling, health care and clothing. The average retention rate for Dallas College is 65%. **When a student accesses one of these basic needs services, the retention rate grows to between 85% and 89%.**

Senior Food Programs

- In FY25, NTFB provided seniors with **14 million physical meals** through its dedicated Senior Program (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) and its Partner Network.
- Through CSFP alone, it distributed **2.97 million meals, including more than 1,800 boxes delivered each month by DoorDash** thanks to a generous gift by Plano Superbowl.
- Those CSFP meals included **2.3 million Texas Department of Agriculture CSFP meals, nearly 636,000 meals of produce** and over **49,000 bonus box meals.**
- NTFB distributed an average of **7,371 monthly CSFP boxes in FY25, which means it served an average of 7,371 seniors each month.**

Container Pantries & Produce Pods

- In FY25, **four Container Pantries** were stationed at four partner agencies, and **together they increased capacity at those agencies by 450,960 meals.** Around 25% of food distributed by an agency with a container consisted of fresh produce.

Garden Program

- Jan's Garden, the on-site learning and production garden at NTFB's Perot Family Campus, **harvested 1,317 pounds of produce** in FY25. That food was donated to The Storehouse Community Center, where it was typically **distributed to neighbors within 36 hours of arriving.**
- NTFB's **13 partner gardens together grew 39,460 pounds of food** for the pantries they serve.
- **Two beehives were added to Jan's Garden** in the spring of FY25 in partnership with Oak Cliff Bee Company. It's estimated **a third of the world's food supply depends on pollination,** and the on-site hives ensure the plethora of vegetables, leafy greens, berries and flowers being grown in Jan's Garden will have the chance for visits and pollination by bees. By August 2025, **each hive had produced about 2 gallons of honey,** which is a remarkable output for a first-year hive.

Hope for Tomorrow

Add Food

- NTFB partnered with **36 new health and financial empowerment organizations**, including new health partners and newly onboarded school pantries, to add food in places that neighbors are already visiting or put systems in place for the organization to provide referrals for food.
- NTFB's FoodRx program moved from its pilot phase in FY24 and is scaling up for growth as part of our next strategic plan. In FY25, **eight healthcare partner sites were onboarded into the FoodRx program**. The initiative allows partner clinics that screen patients for food insecurity to provide those who qualify with a food prescription that they can redeem at a participating partner pantry for regular access to fresh produce and other nutritious food.

Equip Our Partners

- Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the North Texas community, **NTFB awarded 33 grants totaling more than \$2 million in FY25**. The bulk of these grants were Capacity Building Grants that support partners in adding refrigeration or storage, expanding their pantry or purchasing vehicles for the transportation of food so that they can serve more neighbors.
- **Four of these grants, totaling \$459,976, were Hope for Tomorrow awards** that will help partners establish or expand holistic services meant to target the underlying barriers to food security, such as job skills training, financial coaching, case management or health care. Those grants were generously funded by the Tom Thumb/Albertsons Foundation.
- **At the close of FY25, 92 NTFB partners were Nudge Pantries**. Partners become Nudge Pantries when they are equipped with signs, recipes, shelf tags and other materials meant to provide subtle cues, or nudges, that help make the healthier choice the easy choice when neighbors are selecting food.
- **Service Insights**, the online Feeding America platform that simplifies the intake process for neighbors, is now being used **at 72 partner agencies, 28 of which implemented the platform in FY25**. Along with making the intake process more seamless, the platform gathers data that helps us better understand the needs of our neighbors and how we can better serve them. To date, **404,358 neighbors** have been registered through Service Insights.
- **Partner Education and Training courses, which include Network Engagement Services (NES), were provided to 1,339 individuals** from within NTFB's Agency Network during FY25. Classes covered everything from fundraising and marketing to advocacy and volunteer management.

Support our Neighbors

- Understanding where neighbors facing hunger live is critical to closing the hunger gap. To that end, NTFB uses data from Feeding America and its Hunger Index, a comprehensive report developed in partnership with Bain Consulting, to determine which ZIP codes have the highest unmet needs.
- Direct nutrition education is crucial in equipping our neighbors with the information to make healthy eating choices. In FY25, **NTFB provided 3,136 neighbors with nutrition education, nearly 85% more than its goal**. That was done primarily through **280 nutrition education classes** that were offered at NTFB partners, community organizations and schools.
- Through NTFB's **Referral Partner Program**, neighbors are referred to an extensive network of community organizations that can address their needs beyond food. In FY25, NTFB **served 2,366 neighbors** through this program.

- NTFB is also committed to better understanding our neighbors, and one way to do that is by growing the number of people participating in the **Feeding America Client Survey**. In FY25, **neighbors at 23 partner pantries participated in the survey**, up from eight pantries in the previous year.

Advocate

- In FY25, NTFB staff, partners, board members and other advocates **had 277 interactions with local, state and federal officials**. That included **60 advocates who attended Food Bank Day at the Capitol in Austin in April**, where they participated in **28 meetings** with state legislators and their staff. NTFB also participated in four virtual advocacy days with Feeding Texas during the State Legislature.
- Feeding America provided funding for representatives from **two partner agencies to fly to Washington D.C.** in March to advocate for anti-hunger policies, including SNAP and a strong Farm Bill. NTFB staff also participated in the Washington D.C. advocacy day.
- NTFB hosted **18 mayors** from its service area during Mayor Day, held in May at NTFB's Perot Family Campus.
- Wins this session include:
 - **Food is Medicine:** Nutrition counseling and instruction services to those on Medicaid, as well as a pilot program for Medically Tailored Meals & nutrition support services for high-risk pregnant women.
 - **Lawmakers approved \$300 million in funding to support the modernization of TIERS**, the system that determines eligibility for individuals applying for SNAP, Medicaid and other state benefits. This will improve error rates and make the review process quicker.
 - A bill passed that **exempts nonprofit food banks from state sales tax** on the purchase, rental, or use of motor vehicles used primarily for food bank operations.
 - Secured \$20.4 million for the **Surplus Agricultural Products Grant**.

SNAP

- In FY25, NTFB provided access to **20.6 million meals through its Social Services Assistance (SSA) SNAP program, which equates to a local economic impact value of around \$80 million**.
- NTFB's SSA team provided **SNAP application assistance to 20,197 neighbors**. The team also assisted **8,266 neighbors with applications for TANF, Medicaid and the Medicare Savings Plan**, and served **2,366 neighbors through the Referral Partner Program**.
- Along with on-site and over-the-phone assistance, **SSA helped submit 768 applications from the SNAP Mobile**, which is an office on wheels that travels to high-needs, rural and urban areas.
- During FY25, **every new SNAP application assisted by NTFB provided access to an average of 987 meals** while every **SNAP redetermination** (or eligibility verification) assisted **provided access to 1,187 meals**.
- **To qualify for SNAP in Texas, your household's gross monthly income must be at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level**, which means \$1,632 for a single person and \$3,380 for a household of four. A monthly net income test also applies.
- Of those facing hunger in our service area, **51% are at or below the income threshold required to qualify for SNAP**.
- In Texas, SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, is a crucial resource for **3.47 million low-income Texans**. **One out of every 10 Texans receives SNAP benefits**. **For every one meal NTFB can provide, SNAP unlocks nine meals**.

- **Just seven out of 10 eligible Texans are enrolled in SNAP—one of the lowest participation rates in the country.** NTFB’s SSA team is working to combat that by increasing awareness, and ensuring we meet neighbors where they are, whether in-person, on the phone or online.

Making an Impact

- NTFB maximizes every donation made by generous individuals, corporations and foundations. For every \$1 donated, NTFB can provide neighbors with three nutritious meals, and **94% of our resources go directly toward fulfilling the mission.**
- NTFB could not do what it does in the fight against hunger without the dedication of our volunteers. In FY25, **33,015 volunteers** donated **97,203 hours** in service to North Texans facing hunger. This equates to a **value of nearly \$1.5 million.**
- The North Texas community generously helps meet the need with hundreds of individuals, community organizations, schools and businesses hosting canned food drives in FY25, collecting **521,450** pounds of non-perishable foods (which equates to more than **434,542 meals**).
- NTFB is a proud partner of the State Fair of Texas, which has collected over 4.8 million pounds of food since 1995. In FY25, guests to the State Fair donated **165,362 meals or 198,435 pounds of food, including 22,000 jars of peanut butter.**
- NTFB reimagined its signature event, Taste at the Cowboys, into **Taste! at the Star**, a premier culinary event presented by Tyson. Held June 13, it raised enough money to support **nearly 2.5 million meals for children facing hunger** in North Texas. In its 25th year, **Empty Bowls raised enough to support over 757,000 meals** for our neighbors. **Mahj & Mingle**, which added an afternoon session in its second year, raised funds to provide **over 180,000 meals.**