



2021 Oklahoma Food Banks Advocacy and Policy Priorities

In order to “fight hunger and feed hope,” we must craft policies that address the root causes of hunger and poverty in Oklahoma. Economic, food, and health insecurities intersect and often affect one another. Stronger communities exist when people experience financial, health, and food stability.

*We commit to both **feeding the line** through food distribution that helps those who fall on hard times and ultimately **shortening the line** as we advocate for improved conditions for Oklahoma families to thrive. This agenda sets a vision for local, state, and federal leaders of what is needed to end chronic hunger and put more Oklahomans on the path to self-sufficiency.*

Feed the Line	Shorten the Line
<p>Protect and Sustain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgets of governmental agencies that provide services to the most vulnerable • Local, state, and federal resources that help increase awareness and access to vital hunger relief programs and their funding like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women Infant and Children (WIC), the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). • Charitable tax deductions, food donation tax incentives, and other incentives that help Oklahoma’s Food Banks and their partners feed more Oklahomans. <p>Advocate for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System modernization for state agencies to have sufficient technologies and software to administer programs like P-EBT and SNAP outreach efficiently • Continued administrative program waivers and flexibilities that provide continuity and support to programs serving children and the most vulnerable during the pandemic and beyond • Expanded access to federal nutrition programs like school breakfast and lunch, summer meals, and SNAP 	<p>Support and Strengthen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax credits and programs that give relief to Oklahoma families like making the Earned Income Tax Credit refundable and increasing the sales tax relief credit. • Policies that effectively expand access to nutritious foods and incentivize healthier choices. <p>Advocate for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retained integrity of programs that make it possible for people to get the help they need. • Policies that address the intersections of hunger and health, like promoting nutritious education and increasing utilization of nutrition assistance programs. • A basic needs allowance for military service members to establish a monthly supplement to base pay for service members whose income is less than 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. • Expanded economic opportunity for people in poverty and marginalized communities.