



The Texas Food Bank Network (TFBN) is a private, non-profit organization of 19 Feeding America food banks in Texas. Established in 1986, TFBN provides a unified voice among the member food banks in support of their common mission to end hunger in Texas.

The members of TFBN service hunger relief agencies in all 254 Texas counties. With over 3,200 agencies across the state, of which 65% are faith-based organizations, food bank member agencies distributed over 298 million pounds of food in 2010. Based on an average meal weighing 1.28 pounds, TFBN member agencies provided enough food for approximately 232,975,217 meals in 2010. The 524 Back Pack programs and 166 Kid Café programs operated by the food banks across the state serve more than 8 thousand children a week. Many of the Kids Café programs contain computer, reading, and tutorial components, as well as nutrition education.

TFBN administers the following programs and partnerships to aid in the relief of hunger in Texas:

Texas Produce Initiative – The statewide project consists of the following three programs:

- *Surplus Agricultural Product Grant Program* – A Texas Department of Agriculture grant started in March 2002 enables TFBN to work with growers in Texas to donate product to feed the hungry. In 2010, the food banks have received and distributed over 11,993,842 million pounds of prime Texas-grown product through this program.
- *Texas Fresh Approach* – The Texas Department of Criminal Justice partners with food banks to grow and distribute produce from prison farms. TDCJ furnishes agricultural expertise, land, equipment and labor while the food banks provide seed, containers, transportation and administration of the program. In 2010, this successful program distributed 95,962 pounds of produce to three food banks in the state of Texas.
- *Donated Product* – Farmers can donate produce they could not sell due to a decreased shelf life or substandard size to their local area food bank. In 2010 TFBN members received over 516,232 pounds of donated product.

Texas Second Chance – Another joint effort between the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and TFBN members results in a “second chance” for offenders to develop job skills and give back to the community. Prison units across the state aid nearby food banks with the product recovery process – sorting, sanitizing and packing donations prior to delivery to agencies. They also assist in shipping and receiving in the warehouse. In 2010, TDCJ offenders worked 95,459 hours and handled 162,140,296 pounds of product at eight food banks in the state.

TEXCAP – Texas Commodities Assistance Program is a cooperative effort between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, TFBN and USDA to efficiently and effectively distribute nutritious commodities to the needy in all 254 counties.

Social Services Outreach - The Social Services Outreach grant is a cooperative agreement that was first offered to the TFBN from the Health and Human Service Commission of Texas (HHSC) in September 2006. This enables over 40 staffers across the state to provide education and outreach to Texans who wish to apply for Texas benefits such as: SNAP (food stamps), CHIP, TANF, Adult and Child Medicaid. In 2010, 71,034 applications were distributed throughout Texas and 28,460 completed applications were submitted to HHSC on the applicant’s behalf.

- *Community Partner Interviewer (CPI) Project* – The CPI Project was added to the Outreach grant in March 2010. This enabled USDA waiver approved food bank Outreach Staff trained by HHSC, to perform SNAP interviews. Six months after implementation, this partnership resulted in over 8,800 SNAP interviews conducted by those approved TFBN member food banks.