



INVESTING IN A FOOD SECURE MICHIGAN

Michigan Agricultural Surplus System (MASS)
& The F.O.R. Helpline

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food
BANK
COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN

www.fbcmich.org



Food Bank Council of Michigan

The Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) was founded in 1984 by Michigan's regional food banks in an effort to implement a unified strategy to address hunger in Michigan.

As the state association, FBCM represents the seven Feeding America affiliated regional food banks in Michigan.

The regional food banks, along with their subsidiary distribution organizations and branch warehouses, safely store and provide millions of pounds of surplus vegetables, fruits and other grocery items to over 2,000 local agencies serving each of the 83 counties in Michigan.



Vision & Mission

Our Vision

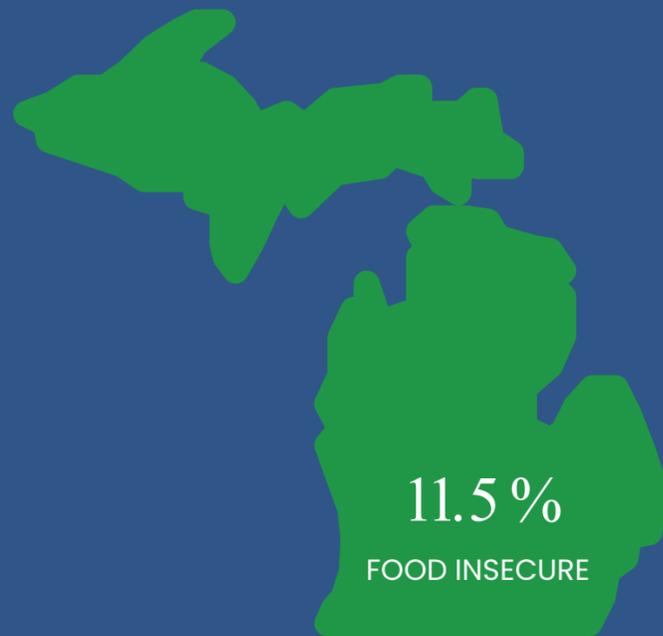
The Food Bank Council of Michigan's mission is to create a food secure state through advocacy, resource management, and collaboration among stakeholders and Michigan's unified food bank network.

Our Mission

Michigan will become a food secure state when each person has access to proper nutrition acquired by dignified means.



Food Insecurity in Michigan



Food Insecure People:

1,150,150

11.5%
OF STATE
POPULATION

Addressing Food Insecurity

In Michigan, 1.15 million Michiganders struggled to put food on the table in 2020, nearly 300,000 of which were children.

1 in 9 Michiganders experience food insecurity.

For nearly 40 years, FBCM and Michigan's food banks have remained committed to addressing food insecurity in our state.

The network continues to develop effective strategies to respond to the specific needs of each community, through innovative programs and partnerships to increase food security for Michigan residents.



Challenges for Families & Food Banks

The MI food bank network has been navigating some significant challenges this winter, that we expect to continue, possibly worsen, this spring.

- Supply chain issues and lack of support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) led to many cancelled orders and less food coming to the food banks that they count on.
- Inflation is not only impacting the families we serve but also limiting the purchasing power of the food bank network. Our dollars are not going as far as they have in past years, again adding to the stress of not having the amount of food needed to serve communities at the level of need we're seeing right now.
- The end of the SNAP Emergency Allotments will greatly impact the 1.3M Michiganders that receive SNAP benefits. February was the last month that SNAP participants received the extra food assistance benefits - this is a loss of over \$130 million monthly in SNAP benefits for both households and Michigan's economy.
- With the food banks already seeing increased need while these additional SNAP benefits were still in place, our lines are sure to lengthen this spring with these benefits ending and we simply don't have the food to meet the need.



Michigan Agricultural Surplus System (MASS)

FBCM coordinates an innovative statewide agricultural program, the Michigan Agricultural Surplus System (MASS), a general fund grant that the State of Michigan provides to FBCM annually to purchase the 2nds or “uglies” directly from Michigan farmers.

MASS enables FBCM to secure nutritious, locally grown and produced fresh food such as produce, dairy, and eggs for the network of food banks in MI.

MASS has been in place since 1990 and was the first program of its kind in the nation, with more than 30 states now implementing similar programs.

Not only does this increase food available to communities, but it ensures that nutrient rich fresh food is available, while at the same time supporting Michigan farmers and helping to boost our state's economy.



Impact of MASS

The current MASS line item in the MDHHS budget is \$2,045,000, with a \$525,000 transportation grant included in those funds.

The ROI is significant for the SOM with our average cost being just \$0.16 per pound.

8 million pounds of Michigan-grown produce, dairy, and eggs was distributed by FBCM in FY 2022 through MASS.

MASS has rescued 42 million pounds of produce over the last five years.

MASS creates secondary markets for our farmers and if there is surplus – we’ve created additional markets for MI farmers with our national partner, Feeding America.



FY
2022:



46 FARMERS



7 FOOD BANKS



200+ TRUCKLOADS,
8 MILLION POUNDS



83 COUNTIES



2,000+
AGENCIES



6.7 MILLION
MEALS



Food and Other Resources (F.O.R.) Helpline

Through a partnership with MDHHS, FBCM is proud to operate a statewide food assistance helpline, known as The Food and Other Resources (F.O.R.) Helpline.

Through the F.O.R. Helpline, FBCM is able to offer assistance in over 240 languages to Michigan residents in all 83 counties that may need help with applying for the Food Assistance Program, accessing local food programs, or referrals to other resources.

Our statewide helpline has become a critical resource for those that experience a range of barriers in access to food – seniors, individuals with disabilities, families with children, and those seeking assistance in a variety of languages.

Our centralized, statewide helpline is evolving to support innovation and future initiatives in workflows and programming between FBCM and the food banks, as well as with external partners.

The F.O.R. Helpline strives to support cross-enrollment across programs through streamlined screening, application, enrollment, and referral processes.

F.O.R.
Food and Other Resources
HELPLINE

For help finding a food pantry,
assistance in applying for SNAP benefits
or referrals to other resources, call

1-888-544-8773



Operated by the Food Bank Council of Michigan
Funded in part by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

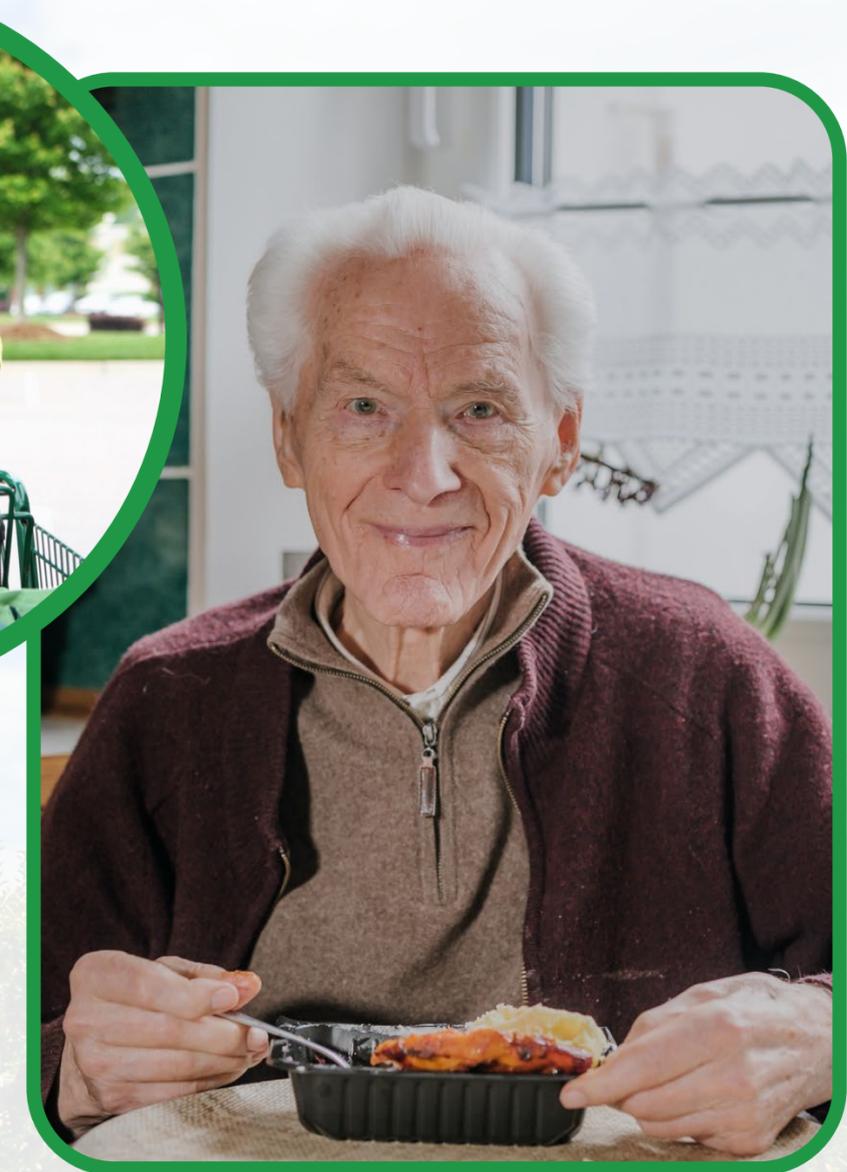
Investing in a Food Secure Michigan

FBCM is requesting \$20,850,000 in the budget to support:

- An increase in the MASS line item to \$20 million from the current \$2,045,000
- \$850,000 to fund the continued operation of the F.O.R Help line.

Help us shorten our supply chain – the more we can buy local in MI, the less supply chain issues we will encounter. This not only would help the food banks to address current issues, but also would provide the food banks with a consistent and reliable resource to have in place for fresh food in during any circumstance.

We have a network of 121+ farmers that could benefit from an increase in MASS. This increase in MASS would mean FBCM could purchase and distribute an estimated 80 million pounds of fresh produce, dairy & eggs through an estimated 2,000 truckloads, helping to provide over \$65 million meals across the state.



Overcoming Barriers to Access

FBCM is committed to reaching and serving those experiencing a variety of barriers in access to food.

As we develop innovative strategies to reach special populations, such as homebound seniors, an increased ability to purchase fresh food to distribute is essential, and our helpline is a critical tool in allowing us to coordinate these efforts.

- If MASS funding were to be increased to \$20 million, FBCM is committed to dedicating at least \$5 million to feed seniors.
- Homebound seniors in need of food are already reaching out to us through our statewide food assistance helpline. We need more fresh food available to support innovative distribution strategies, such as home delivery, to best serve these households.





Questions?



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