



FULLY FUND SURPLUS AGRICULTURE GRANT TO FEED HUNGRY TEXANS

200% increase in Texans seeking food bank assistance
since the onset of COVID-19.

19.8 million pounds of surplus produce will not be distributed
to Texas families if proposed cuts take effect.

2/3 of the Texans that food banks serve have poor nutritional health due to limited resources.

BACKGROUND

Since 2001, the Surplus Agricultural Products Grant has supported a cost-effective strategy to fight hunger, improve health, and reduce food waste. Food banks use this funding to source fresh produce that is unsellable due to imperfections or market conditions. 100% of the program funds food banks receive go to farmers and transportation providers to offset the cost of harvesting, storage, packaging, and freight.

"There are a lot of us who are raising grandchildren, and nutrition is really important. But if you're on a fixed income, you sacrifice that sometimes for medication or housing...food gets kind of put on the backburner."

CYNTHIA, TEXAS GRANDMOTHER



PROBLEM

Per the Governor's request to trim state budgets, the Texas Department of Agriculture has proposed a \$1.98M cut to the Surplus Agricultural Products Grant for FY20-21, which would drastically reduce the purchasing power of food banks. **The proposed 41% funding cut would prevent food banks from acquiring 19.8 million pounds of local produce, hurting both Texas farmers and low-income Texas families.**

IMPACT OF COVID-19

During the pandemic, food insecurity in Texas spiked to over 31%, more than double the official rate found by the USDA in 2018. As a result, millions of Texans have turned to food banks for help feeding their families. The role of food banks has never been more critical or life-saving. While there has been some emergency federal aid for hunger relief, these programs have already expired or will expire at the end of 2020. In fact, food banks anticipate receiving less federal funding in FY 2020-21 than they received prior to COVID-19, despite the growth in demand.



**TEXAS FAMILIES FACES HUNGER
DURING THE PANDMIEC**

SOLUTION

Food banks will be unable to meet the increased need in Texas due to COVID-19 without the continued support of the state. **The Texas Legislature should fully fund the Surplus Agricultural Products Grant to ensure that food banks can continue to provide healthy produce to Texans during the pandemic.**



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