



## 2021 State Policy Priorities

Feeding Colorado is comprised of the five Feeding America network food banks serving all of Colorado and Wyoming. We are on the front lines of hunger. We hear the stories. We understand the struggles. And we are committed to finding solutions. Our aim is to increase food and funds to the five food banks and our network of partners across the state and advance policies that have a positive impact on the lives of people facing hunger. Equity is at the core of ending hunger, and we are committed to addressing inequities faced by the people most impacted by food insecurity.

We want our lawmakers to understand hunger and how they can help us continue to fulfill our mission of reaching those in need in every county, every day.

### **Champion an End to Childhood Hunger**

- Maximize federal funds to fight childhood hunger through increased participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Women Infants and Children program.
- Strengthen participation in school meal programs and support universal school meals by encouraging adoption of the Community Eligibility Provision.

### **Protect and Strengthen Programs that Fight Hunger**

- Eliminate barriers for eligible people to access and utilize government assistance programs.
- Increase funding for SNAP outreach and maximize available federal match dollars to connect people with existing food assistance programs.
- Provide financial support for charitable and emergency food providers through programs like the Food Pantry Assistant Grant.
- Educate the public and elected officials about the inability of the charitable food assistance network to meet the demand.

### **Increase Access to Healthy Food**

- Support the continued expansion of federal and state funds for healthy food incentives that double the value of SNAP dollars at farmer's markets, specifically through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and the Double Up Food Bucks program.
- Support and expand "Farm to Food Bank" ag. surplus food donation programs to connect excess food with communities in need.
- Invest in infrastructure and expand capacity for the charitable food assistance network to allow for more efficient use of existing resources and increased distribution of healthy foods in communities across the state.

### **Encourage Charity**

- Preserve and expand tax incentives that encourage donations to charitable nonprofits.
- Support fiscally responsible policies that balance donations to charity while also ensuring that government has the resources necessary to meet our collective obligations to provide for the health and well-being of our neighbors and communities.
- Opposing the imposition of fees, payments in lieu of taxes, and taxes on tax-exempt nonprofit organizations; and oppose floors, caps, or limits on existing charitable giving incentives.
- Maintain current laws that allow nonprofits to advocate for their missions and require nonprofits to be politically neutral.