



2022 State Policy Priorities

Feeding Colorado is an association of the five Feeding America food banks serving all of Colorado and Wyoming, collaborating and leveraging their combined strengths to reach people in every county, every day. Member food banks include Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado, Community Food Share, Food Bank for Larimer County, Food Bank of the Rockies, and Weld Food Bank. Our aim is to advance policies that have a positive impact on the lives of people facing hunger. Feeding Colorado federal priorities match those of the nationwide network of Feeding America food banks.

Champion an End to Childhood Hunger

- Maximize federal funds to fight childhood hunger through increased participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs, Community Eligibility Provision, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Women, Infants and Children program.
- Support adoption and implementation of universal school meals and other blanket meal provisions such as the Community Eligibility Provision to provide all children with access to healthy food while learning and decrease the administrative burden on school districts.

Protect and Strengthen Programs that Fight Hunger

- Eliminate barriers for eligible people to access and utilize government assistance programs.
- Maximize funding, capacity, and outreach to connect eligible people with existing food assistance programs so they can use benefits regardless of where they live.
- Support continuation of expanded benefits and waivers providing more people with more food and helping alleviate demand on the charitable food assistance network.
- Educate the public and elected officials about the inability of the charitable food assistance network alone to meet demand.

Increase Access to Healthy Food

- Increase food and funds for the charitable food assistance network, including through appropriations for food banks to purchase Colorado-sourced food and programs like the Food Pantry Assistant Grant.
- Invest in expanded capacity and infrastructure for the charitable food assistance network in the form of buildings, equipment, staff, and other non-food necessities.
- Support and expand "Farm to Food Bank" ag. surplus food donation programs to connect excess food with communities in need.
- Support expansion of federal and state funds for healthy food incentives that double the value of SNAP dollars at farmer's markets through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and the Double Up Food Bucks program.

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.