

ARKANSAS FOOD BANK

2026

CASE FOR SUPPORT

FOOD SECURITY IN ARKANSAS

Hunger is hidden in plain sight, but your generosity brings hope, stability, and dignity to families across central and southern Arkansas.

For more than 280,000 people across central and southern Arkansas, putting food on the table is a daily challenge. Even families working multiple jobs are struggling to keep up as the cost of housing, fuel, and basic necessities continues to rise. Too many are forced into impossible choices — deciding whether to keep the lights on or buy groceries — choices no one should ever have to make.

Hunger in Arkansas is often hidden in plain sight. It affects neighbors on your street, children sitting beside your own in school, and seniors who have spent their lives contributing to their communities. Behind closed doors, many are quietly navigating the stress and uncertainty of not knowing where their next meal will come from. Today, more than 19% of our neighbors are food insecure, and the ripple effects touch every aspect of their health, stability, and well-being.

This is where your support makes a profound difference. Your partnership ensures families are met with dignity and given consistent access to nutritious food, no matter their zip code or circumstance. By strengthening local pantries and expanding resources in communities with the highest need, your generosity brings hope, stability, and the chance for families to focus on more than survival. Together, we can create a future where all Arkansans have access to the food they need to thrive.



1 in 5
Arkansans do not know where their next meal may come from

Arkansas ranks
1st
in the nation for food insecurity according to USDA's report

1 in 4
children in Arkansas are at risk of going hungry

1 in 8
seniors in Arkansas are facing hunger

Hunger In Arkansas

Hunger doesn't look the same everywhere — but the need is widespread, and urgent. Arkansas consistently ranks among the top five states for child, senior, and overall food insecurity.

Your generosity provides reliable access to food for families facing these challenges and helps us reach communities where hunger is most severe.

ARKANSAS FOOD BANK
MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA

HOW WE HELP

We provide food, resources, and data-driven solutions to neighbors who need it most.



1. Providing food to those who need it.

Arkansas Foodbank puts food on tables. Through our network of more than 400 community partners, we distributed roughly 40 million foods of food yearly, or more than 33 million meals, across central and southern Arkansas.

2. Learning our community needs.

Not every neighborhood has the same needs. We provide food to urban and incredibly rural corners of Arkansas, and each requires a unique plan to fight food insecurity and create a network of resources to build better lives for our neighbors. We are committed to learning each of our communities' needs to meet them where they are.

3. Using data to drive hope.

The face of hunger has changed dramatically within the past few years, and needs across central and southern Arkansas are no exception. We use Feeding America, state and local government, and agency partner data to identify underserved areas and efficiently allocate resources by community.













FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY

We combine community partnerships, capital investments, and direct services to feed Arkansans.



Fulfilling our mission means connecting people, resources, and food so every neighbor can access support with dignity. Your partnership makes this possible. By working with trusted organizations across the 33 counties we serve, we strengthen local distribution hubs and expand their ability to meet evolving community needs. And when gaps remain, your support allows Arkansas Foodbank to step in with direct services and targeted programs so families still facing food insecurity are never left without help.

Community Partnerships

More than 95% of our annual food distribution flows through a network of over 400 community partners. These pantries, schools, churches, and shelters are deeply rooted in the neighborhoods they serve. Your generosity empowers these trusted local organizations, honoring the dignity of the people they serve and ensuring food reaches families through relationships built on trust.

Capital Investments

As needs change across our partner network, your generosity ensures every community can serve its neighbors with dignity. With your support, we direct resources to areas with the greatest gaps in food access. From expanded cold storage to upgraded pantry capacity, your investment brings more nutritious, high-quality foods to families who deserve reliable, dignified access to healthy meals.





FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY

Direct Services

Many communities are working hard to serve their neighbors but lack the capacity to meet growing demand. Your support strengthens their efforts and ensures we can deliver specialized programs to the geographies and populations facing the deepest food access gaps.

Pop-Up Pantries

When our partners can't support a distribution, it can have a devastating impact on a community. We identify areas with the most need and provide targeted Pop-Up Pantries to assure those communities and neighbors have ready access to nutritious food.



Food for Kids

1 in 4 Arkansas children face food insecurity, and in some rural counties, the rate is even higher. We provide food to kids facing hunger through school pantries, backpack programs, and summer feeding initiatives.

Food for Seniors

We improve access to food for older Arkansans through monthly food boxes, ensuring our pantries are stocked with foods that meet seniors' unique dietary needs, and extra financial support to partner agencies, such as mini grants, to help fund making pantries handicap accessible.

Food for Families

We connect our agencies with local, state, and national resources with food and funds to strengthen their programs, ultimately enabling them to better serve people facing hunger.

Improving Access to Food

In February 2024, Calhoun County, Arkansas, faced a significant challenge when one of its two food distribution agencies, located in the county seat of Hampton, ceased distributing USDA food to the community. Later in May 2024, the town's only grocery store, Family Dollar, closed it's business. These developments threatened to exacerbate food insecurity in a county where 12.5% of the population lives below the poverty line.



Thanks to donor support, the Arkansas Foodbank collaborated with local entities, including the community extension office, the school district, and the county judge, to ensure uninterrupted food assistance. The Foodbank distributed monthly allotments to 175-200 households in need. In 2025-26, the Arkansas Foodbank aims to leverage the relationships established during this period to establish a sustainable pantry in Calhoun County.

MAKE AN IMPACT

To ensure we can feed our neighbors today and in the future, we need you.

Your donations allow us to leverage food-sourcing partnerships, reduce the cost of acquiring food, strengthen local pantries, and deliver targeted programs that meet the most urgent needs across all 33 counties.





Your support ensures:

- More than 40 million pounds of food reach Arkansans each year.
- 94¢ of every dollar directly fuels hunger relief.
- Every $1 provides 5 meals.

With your partnership, we can build a stronger, more connected hunger-relief network — and ensure no Arkansan goes hungry.

We distribute more than **40 million pounds** of food across central and southern Arkansas every year

$0.94 of every **$1** donated goes directly into our hunger relief programs

Every $1 donated creates **5 Meals for Arkansans**



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