



# 2023 Advocacy Agenda

Our Advocacy Agenda creates clear priorities for Northern Illinois Food Bank's Advocacy Team during calendar year 2023. In addition to these targeted issues, we will track and take action on legislation that could impact the neighbors and communities we serve or the Food Bank. By focusing on key issues and relationship building, we will advocate for everyone in Northern Illinois to have the food they need to thrive.

## Local Priorities:

- **Educating and advocating with our local government entities** to influence community hunger relief programs, partnerships, and funding opportunities

## State Priorities:

- **Advocating for administrative, distribution, and eligibility policies** that preserve and strengthen nutrition programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- **Advocating for an Illinois budget that strongly supports social services**, the non-profit sector, and programs that are vital to those we serve and ultimately solving hunger

## Federal Priorities:

- **Supporting and recommending policies for the 2023 Farm Bill including**
  - Improving SNAP benefit adequacy by increasing the minimum benefit, basing benefits on the Low-Cost Food Plan instead of the Thrifty Food Plan, adding an inflationary trigger that adjusts SNAP for food inflation more than once per year in years with above average food inflation, removing enrollment barriers for older adults, immigrants, and college students, and addressing military and veteran hunger by advocating for the exclusion of the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) as income
  - Ensuring adequate funding for TEFAP by increasing TEFAP commodity baseline funding to \$450 million a year indexed to inflation, adding an inflationary trigger that adjusts TEFAP for food inflation more than once per year in years with above average food inflation, and authorizing \$200 million per year for TEFAP Storage and Distribution funds and \$15 million per year for TEFAP Infrastructure grants to help better cover the cost of distributing TEFAP foods, especially in underserved and rural communities
- **Pushing for Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation** that will provide long overdue program and administration updates to child nutrition programs, including Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- **Advocating for bills like the Accelerating Charitable Efforts (ACE) Act**, which will allow for assets held within Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) to be released more quickly into the charitable sector

For more information, please visit [www.SolveHungerToday.org/Advocate](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org/Advocate)