

## **Welcome Gabby Murphy, Advocacy Coordinator!**

Prior to joining the Foodbank, I worked on ensuring equitable access to food on the *Missouri S&T* college campus in Rolla, MO. Additionally, I worked as a lobbyist for higher education students interests in the Missouri State Legislature on behalf of the *Associated Students of the University of Missouri*. In my time at the Capitol during the 2023 Regular Session, I got two bills passed expanding access to medical practitioners and counselors for MO residents and helped implement a new position on all UM campuses to connect students with public and community resources for basic needs insecurity.

I look forward to working across the St. Louis Area Foodbank's network to implement the grassroots advocacy program in our neighbor's communities. Through outreach, education, and action we hope to strengthen our neighbors and partners understanding of SLAFB's mission and inspire them to empower our communities, feed each other and transform systems to better serve and advocate for the Greater St. Louis area.



## **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

***For the calendar year 2024, St. Louis Area Foodbank has identified the following priorities at the Federal and State levels. St. Louis Area Foodbank will:***

- **Advocate for strong budget policies at the Federal and State levels** that support social services, the non-profit sector, and programs that are vital to supporting and empowering our community. These include but are not limited to: *SNAP, TANF, TEFAP, CSFP*, and other programs that assist our neighbors in reaching their full potential.
- **Advocate for administrative, distribution, and eligibility policies** which preserve and strengthen programs that support and empower our community.
- **Advocate for administrative and budgetary policies** that break down barriers to access and create a more equitable system for our community.

### ***Farm Bill Advocacy Continues: Additional Resources Available***

The continuing resolution signed into law in November that extended current government funding into early 2024 also extended the 2018 *Farm Bill* through Sept. 30, 2024, providing additional time for Congress to negotiate a new farm bill. Lawmakers have already stated their intention to move swiftly in early 2024 to consider farm bill legislation, so we must persist in calling on Congress to pass a farm bill that strengthens federal nutrition programs. Please continue using the resources below to share with the public and lawmakers what's at risk for food banks and communities across the country. As we continue to monitor progress on farm bill reauthorization, we'll provide additional resources to keep your communities and lawmakers engaged.

- **Feeding America farm bill poll findings social media posts and graphics.** For background on this poll, please read our press release and memo.
- **TEFAP infographic**
- **TEFAP and SNAP social media posts and graphics**
- **USDA food insecurity data social media posts and graphics**



# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

(Continued)

## Military Hunger

An increasing number of food banks have reported active-duty military families coming to food pantries located near military bases. These reports have increased due to COVID-19. Along with the charitable sector, lawmakers must intervene with policies that ensure those who protect our nation are protected from the consequences of food insecurity.

- **Read** *Feeding America's* summary of key provisions in the final FY24 NDAA on *HungerNet*.
- **Military Hunger (Feeding America)**  
[https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/Resource\\_Military-Food-Insecurity-One-Pager.pdf](https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/Resource_Military-Food-Insecurity-One-Pager.pdf)



## EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY

### Action Opportunity

The time is now to reach out to your Members of Congress (House and Senate) about the upcoming *Farm Bill*. We need your help to strengthen *The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)* and the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*, formerly known as food stamps).

WRITE A LETTER

CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

### Get Involved

*Volunteer Opportunities, Food Drives, fundraisers, etc.*

- **Ambassadors For Change**

A Grassroots Coalition of leaders in the St. Louis Area Foodbank service area that will work together to educate, empower our communities, and transform systems. Our first meeting will be held at the St. Louis Area Foodbank on January 25th, 2024 at 2pm. **Contact Gabby Murphy, at [gmurphy@stlfoodbank.org](mailto:gmurphy@stlfoodbank.org)** for more information.

- **Grassroots Tool Kit Available!**

Does your organization or group want to get more involved in grassroots advocacy work within the St. Louis Area Foodbank Network? Our team has created a toolkit and Presentations to assist in that journey. **Contact Gabby Murphy, at [gmurphy@stlfoodbank.org](mailto:gmurphy@stlfoodbank.org)** for more information on how to get involved.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Military Hunger Distribution –

Tuesday, March 19th, 2024

### Stamp Out Hunger –

Saturday, May 11th, 2024

### Rock Out Hunger –

Friday, June 7th, 2024

**Foodbank**  
St. Louis Area Foodbank

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