

FANO Fly-In

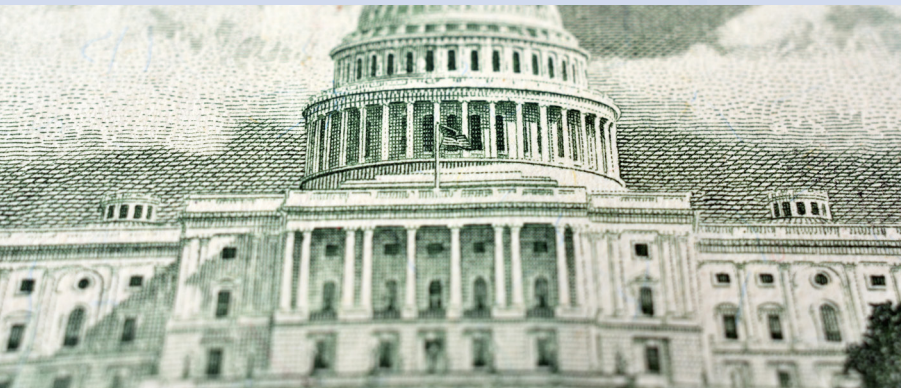
In March, Our Advocacy Coordinator (Gabby Murphy) flew to Washington DC alongside dozens of other advocates across the Feeding America network.

Together, we met with legislators and members of the Department of Agriculture to advocate for the passage of *the Farm Bill* as well as progressive policy and funding for food assistance programs. Personally, we met with members of Senators Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt's offices to assert the importance of the programs funded by the farm bill and spread awareness of the need our neighbors experience. Additionally, meetings were held with several Illinois legislators to advocate for *better TEFAP funding and more sustainable hunger assistance programs* at the federal level.

Shortly after, **several Agriculture Appropriations bills were passed which protected SNAP and strengthened WIC** but consisted of decreased funding for TEFAP. As such, we will continue to advocate for stronger TEFAP funding and full passage of *the Farm Bill*.



GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN - NO MORE



Happily, on March 23rd, Congress passed a package of bills to fully fund the federal government through FY24. This ends the chain of continuous resolutions and worries of a government shutdown. While this is great news, we will continue to prepare for the possibility of a shutdown next year, as this becomes more common with every year.

MILITARY HUNGER WITHIN OUR REGION

The St. Louis Area Foodbank continues to salute our veterans and active-duty military personnel in our community by bridging the gap between those who have served and access to food. *In March SLAFB organized two major food distributions for our military neighbors in Farmington, MO and Maryland Heights, MO serving 460 families.* This is the start of efforts to end military food insecurity and provide resources for those who have served the country. *Soon we plan to expand our veteran outreach into Illinois.*





ILLINOIS ADVOCATES UNITE!

On April 9th The Foodbank, alongside other Illinois Advocates, traveled to the Illinois State Capitol to advocate for the strengthening of the **Farm to Food Bank program**. *Farm to Food Bank* helps directly provide food banks with fresh produce from Illinois farmers to help nourish and feed our communities. We also plan to voice support for the implementation of Summer EBT in Illinois and discuss how these initiatives can be brought to Missouri.



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Stamp Out Hunger –

Saturday, May 11th, 2024

Follow us on social media for more information.

Purina Pet Cares Day –

Thursday, May 23rd, 2024

Ballpark Village

Pre-registration is required. Event info will be available at stlfoodbank.org/find-food/food-distribution-events/.

Rock Out Hunger –

Friday, June 7th, 2024

More info + tickets at stlfoodbank.org/roh24



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 works together to educate, empower our communities, and transform systems. We meet the last Wednesday of every month at 2pm. **Contact Gabby Murphy, at 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** for more information on how to get involved.



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