



THE ADVOCATE

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2025 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES: A COMMITMENT TO ENDING HUNGER

The St. Louis Area Foodbank is excited to announce its 2025 Advocacy Priorities, a strategic framework aimed at tackling the pressing issue of hunger in our community. With the continued rise of food insecurity affecting countless individuals and families in the region, the Foodbank is stepping up its efforts to advocate for systemic change, enhance access to nutritious food, and foster collaboration among stakeholders.

In 2023, nearly 1 in 7 individuals in the St. Louis area faced food insecurity. The Foodbank recognizes that addressing hunger requires not only immediate relief but also long-term solutions. The 2025 Advocacy Priorities roadmap consists of strengthening nutrition assistance programs, addressing root causes of hunger, strengthening local and regional food systems, and more.

Check out our 2025 Advocacy Priorities at <https://bit.ly/2025AdvocacyPriorities>.



A NEW ERA BEGINS: WELCOMING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION



As we step into a new chapter with the arrival of the new administration, anticipation fills the air across our community. **With fresh faces and renewed energy, the leadership is poised to tackle the challenges ahead and build on the achievements of the past.** We will continue to partner with Feeding America to stay on top of upcoming changes from the switch, ensuring that our community remains well-equipped to address food insecurity and support those in need.

The collaboration with Feeding America will play a crucial role in navigating this transition. By leveraging their resources and expertise, we aim to enhance our food distribution efforts, expand outreach programs, and increase access to nutritious meals for families facing food insecurity. **This partnership will allow us to remain agile and responsive to evolving needs, ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry.**

BECOME AN ADVOCATE

The St. Louis Area Foodbank offers **Advocacy Trainings** for organizations and group wanting to learn more and dive into grassroots advocacy. Request a Training Today at <https://forms.office.com/r/8sN0amUaEx>.



FARM BILL EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR Implications and Opportunities

In a significant development for American agriculture, lawmakers have announced a one-year extension of the Farm Bill, providing continuity for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities across the country. Originally set to expire, this extension ensures that critical programs and funding mechanisms will remain in place while Congress works on developing a comprehensive new bill. The Farm Bill is a vital piece of legislation that governs a wide range of agricultural and food programs, including crop insurance, nutrition assistance, conservation initiatives, and rural development. **This comprehensive legislation plays a crucial role in supporting farmers and ensuring food security for millions of Americans.** While the extension provides immediate relief, it also presents an opportunity for stakeholders—farmers, agricultural organizations, and community leaders—to engage in discussions about the future of the Farm Bill. This is a chance to evaluate current programs, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that the new bill aligns with the evolving needs of the agricultural sector and rural communities.

ACT NOW and click here to Tell Congress: Pass a strong farm bill to support farmers and people facing hunger!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Statutory Day for the release of the President's Budget
February 3, 2025

Fiscal 2025 continuing resolution expires
March 14, 2025

Feeding America Government Relations Webinar
March 2025



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 November, we hosted our inaugural Veteran's Day Distributions. We were honored to have Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) and her team come out to the distribution and hand out food to veterans and military

Meredith Knopp, President & CEO of the St. Louis Area Foodbank with Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) and her family.



EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY

AMBASSADORS FOR CHANGE

Ambassadors for Change is a grassroots coalition of community leaders within the St. Louis Area Foodbank service area with a focus on hunger relief advocacy initiatives. The group works to increase knowledge sharing and education, empower our communities, and transform systems.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

March 27, 2025 @SLAFB 2 – 3 p.m.

May 22, 2025 @SLAFB 2 – 3 p.m.

Contact Melanie Martin, mmartin@stlfoodbank.org for more information.



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