

## LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT

In a significant effort to address food insecurity in our region, the *St. Louis Area Foodbank* recently engaged in productive discussions with key legislators: **Senator Erica Harriss (IL) and Representatives Brad Banderman (MO) and Kevin Schmidt (IL)**. This initiative aims to enhance support for local food programs, pantries, and ensure that all residents have access to nutritious meals. **The collaboration between the *St. Louis Area Foodbank* and state legislators is vital for creating lasting change.** By aligning our efforts, we can mobilize resources, engage the community, and advocate for policies that uplift vulnerable populations. As we continue to engage with our legislators, we invite community members to join the conversation. Stay informed about upcoming events, advocacy opportunities, and initiatives aimed at reducing food insecurity. Together, we can make a difference.

For more information on how you can support the *St. Louis Area Foodbank* and engage with local lawmakers, [visit our website](#) or follow us on social media. *Your voice matters in the fight against hunger!*



## CONTINUING RESOLUTION TO FUND GOVERNMENT



In September, Congress passed—and the president signed—a bipartisan continuing resolution extending current government funding through Friday, Dec. 20 for all departments and agencies, including the *USDA* and our priority programs. **This allows all federal nutrition programs to continue without disruption during this time.** The continuing resolution includes flexible funding to ensure caseload management for the *Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)* and *Women, Infants and Children (WIC)*. It also extends protections against *EBT* card fraud, known as *SNAP* skimming.

Members of Congress are now heading home for several weeks. When they return to Washington, D.C., after the November election, the network will vigorously advocate for our fiscal year 2025 appropriations priorities. If Congress fails to pass the necessary spending bills to fund the government by Dec. 20—or an additional continuing resolution—then the government will shut down on Saturday, Dec. 21.

GOVERNMENT



# WHY EVERY VOICE MATTERS IN SHAPING OUR FUTURE

**Voting is one of the most fundamental rights and responsibilities in a democratic society.** It serves as a powerful tool for citizens to voice their opinions and influence the direction of their communities and country. Whether local, state, or national, each election presents an opportunity for individuals to shape policies that affect their lives. **The November elections are a crucial opportunity for citizens to make their voices heard on key issues and candidates that will shape local, state, and national policies.** Voters will have the chance to elect representatives, decide on ballot measures, and influence the direction of governance. With significant races at stake, including congressional seats, state legislatures, and various local offices, turnout is essential. Engaging in the electoral process not only empowers individuals but also strengthens democracy by ensuring diverse perspectives are represented. As the date approaches, it's important for voters to educate themselves on the candidates and issues, making informed choices that reflect their values and priorities.

Visit [www.vote.gov](http://www.vote.gov) to check your registration and more information.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Election Day!

August 3 through  
November 5, 2024

### Veteran's Day

Food Distributions  
November 11, 2024

### Congress Back in Session

November 12, 2024

### Thanksgiving Together Holiday Meal Distribution

November 26, 2024

### Continued Resolution Timeline Ends

December 20, 2024



## SNAP NEWS

**The USDA adjusts SNAP maximum allotments, deductions, and income eligibility standards at the beginning of each federal fiscal year.** The fiscal year began on Oct. 1st. The changes are based on changes in the cost of living. Cost of living is the amount of money needed to support a basic standard of living.

*The Thrifty Food Plan (TFP)* calculates the cost of a market basket for a family of four. *TFP* is an estimate by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of how much it costs to provide nutritious, low-cost meals for a household. Maximum allotments are calculated from this cost every June.

For more information, visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/allotment/COLA>.



## 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:

- November 14, 2024** @ SLAFB 2 – 3 p.m.
- January 23, 2025** @ SLAFB 2 – 3 p.m.
- March 27, 2025** @ SLAFB 2 – 3 p.m.
- May 22, 2025** @ SLAFB 2 – 3 p.m.

Contact Melanie Hager, [mhager@stlfoodbank.org](mailto:mhager@stlfoodbank.org) for more information.



70 Corporate Woods Drive  
Bridgeton, MO 63044  
314-292-6262 | [STLFoodbank.org](http://STLFoodbank.org)



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