

## TRIPS TO THE CAPITAL

This spring, as part of our ongoing advocacy efforts, the St. Louis Area Foodbank visited both federal and state elected officials during Lobby Days with Feeding America, Feeding Illinois, and Feeding Missouri. In early March, we traveled to Washington, D.C., for the Feeding America Fly-In, where we joined other Missouri and Illinois food banks to meet with Members of Congress, including staff from the offices of Senator Schmitt, Senator Duckworth, and Congressman Bost, as well as a direct meeting with Congressman Bell. Later in March, we participated in the Feeding Illinois Lobby Day in Springfield, meeting with Senators Belt and Harriss, and Representatives Elik, Friess, and Hoffman. In mid-April, we joined Feeding Missouri in Jefferson City to meet with legislators from our service area, including Senators Schroer, McCreery, and Mosley, and Representatives Harbison, Amato, and Fuchs.

The meetings focused on building relationships with elected officials and their staff. We discussed our mission, learned about their priorities, and explored ways we can work together to strengthen our communities. These conversations helped raise awareness about the challenges our neighbors face and the impact of our work. We're eager to continue these relationships and engage elected leaders more directly in their home districts.



## IN-DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT



We've recently had several valuable opportunities to engage with elected officials across our region. Congressman Bell toured our facility and Food on the Move truck, and Illinois State Senator Harriss joined a Food on the Move event in Alton. In April, we co-hosted the Southern Illinois Grow Gathering with visits from staff representing State Senator Harriss, State Representative Elik, U.S. Senator Duckworth, and Congresswoman Budzinski. We also joined Senator Durbin at an event in East St. Louis, where our CEO Meredith Knopp highlighted our work.

As the Missouri and Illinois legislative sessions wrap up and we look toward the August recess, we're excited for upcoming in-district engagement, including our 50th anniversary events and Hunger Action Month in September. If you'd like help connecting with elected officials, contact Collin Gunn at [cgunn@stlfoodbank.org](mailto:cgunn@stlfoodbank.org).

## GET INVOLVED WITH THE ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK

Whether you volunteer your time, host a food or fund drive, or speak up as an advocate, your support helps fight hunger and strengthen our community. Every action—big or small—makes a real difference for neighbors in need. Join us and be part of the solution!

**GIVE TIME**

**GIVE FUNDS**

**BECOME AN ADVOCATE**



# FARM BILL ADVOCACY What the Farm Bill Is—and Why It Matters

The Farm Bill is a major piece of legislation passed by Congress about every five years that shapes much of our food and farming system. It covers a wide range of programs, from crop insurance and conservation efforts to nutrition assistance like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). In short, it affects what food is grown, how it's grown, and who has access to it.

## Why Advocacy Matters

The Farm Bill isn't just about farms—it's about people. Millions of Americans rely on it for food security, especially those facing hunger. That's why it's so important for everyday people—not just lawmakers and lobbyists—to speak up. Advocating for a strong, equitable Farm Bill helps ensure that nutrition programs are protected, family farmers are supported, and rural communities thrive.

Now is the time to get involved. Your voice can help shape a Farm Bill that works for everyone.

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Missouri Legislative Session Ended

May 16, 2025

### Illinois Legislative Session Ended

May 31, 2025

### Congressional Recess

August 2 through September 1, 2025

### St. Louis Area Foodbank Commemorating 50 Years of Service

July 15, 2025

Learn how you can get involved by visiting:

[www.stlfoodbank.org/50years](http://www.stlfoodbank.org/50years)



## LEARN MORE ABOUT CURRENT EVENTS

There continues to be change in the world around us. As inquiries about program changes continue to come in from across the region, it may be helpful to share what is currently known, what remains unknown, and how the team plans to navigate the one constant in life — change.

Learn more in our latest blog

<https://stlfoodbank.org/blog/may2025blog/>

or **CLICK HERE.**

## LEADING AHEAD WITH MEREDITH:



## EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY

### AMBASSADORS FOR CHANGE

Ambassadors for Change is a grassroots coalition of community leaders across the St. Louis Area Foodbank's service region, united in their commitment to hunger relief advocacy. The coalition works to share knowledge, promote education, empower communities, and drive meaningful, systemic change.

### NOW RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS FOR FY26

If you're passionate about making a difference and interested in joining this movement, contact Colin Gunn, [cgunn@stlfoodbank.org](mailto:cgunn@stlfoodbank.org) if you're interested in joining.

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