



Dear Policy Makers,

**Please make sure the Vermont Foodbank (VF) can support food security efforts and ongoing need for charitable food across the state.**

**\$2 million in base funding is needed right away, in the Budget Adjustment, and an additional \$3 million in base funding is needed in FY2025, to ensure that the Vermont Foodbank can continue to provide the services and response needed.**

This summer’s catastrophic flooding around the state created an additional challenge for our neighbors experiencing hunger and has put additional pressure on the charitable and emergency food network. This level of need is beyond what the Vermont Foodbank’s network of community organizations was built to address.

The recent flooding was just the most recent in a cascade of crises that Vermont households have been dealing with. Past events, like Tropical Storm Irene, have shown that there is a long tail to disaster recovery. Many people who did not need help before these disasters will now need help for months, maybe years, to come. The recent, increased need for food in communities builds on the economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as exacerbated by record inflation in 2022.

In June 2023, Vermont Foodbank and its network distributed 988,913 lbs. of food. In August it was 1.42 million lbs. – a 44% increase in the quantity of food distributed; in September the quantity was 1.13 million pounds -- still 14% higher than in June. The Vermont Foodbank anticipates that this level of need will continue to remain high, especially in flood impacted regions. The Foodbank and their network needs the sustained, reliable support of the State of Vermont to continue to provide food to people who need it across the state.

We, the undersigned, request that the legislature support the Vermont Foodbank’s appropriations request.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Addison Community Action**  
Middlebury

**Addison County Relocalization Network**  
Bristol

**Agape Christian Fellowship Church**  
Brattleboro

**AIDS Project of Southern Vermont**  
Brattleboro

**Albany Food Share Site, Hardwick Area Food Pantry**  
Albany/Hardwick

**Alliance for Community Transformations (ACT Bennington)**  
Bennington

**Arlington Area Childcare Inc**  
Arlington

**Barre Town School**  
Barre

**Barre Unified Union School District**  
Barre

**Barton Graded School**  
Barton

**Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless**  
Bennington

**Bethel Area Food Shelf**  
Bethel

**Bible Baptist Church of Bennington**  
Bennington

**Bradford Church Food Shelf**  
Bradford

**Brandon Senior Center, Brandon Area Emergency Food Shelf**  
Brandon

**Brattleboro Memorial Hospital**  
Brattleboro

**Bread of Life Food Pantry**  
Vernon

**Bugbee Senior Center**  
Hartford

**Central Vermont Medical Center**  
Berlin

**Central Vermont SU**  
Williamstown



“There is an increasing need for food for families. We have seen a 40% increase in customers to our Food Shelf since 2021-22, including more families with young children. As we go into this holiday season and heating season, this number will increase.” – Laurie Barker Redel, Secretary, Champlain Islands Food Shelf

**Champlain Islands Food Shelf (CIFS)**  
Grand Isle

**Charter House Coalition**  
Middlebury

**Chester-Andover Family Center**  
Chester/Andover

**Colchester Community Food Shelf**  
Colchester

**Deerfield Valley Food Pantry**  
Deerfield

**Edible Brattleboro**  
Brattleboro

**Encore Renewable Energy**  
Burlington

**Enosburg food shelf**  
Enosburg

**Family Center of Washington County**  
Montpelier

**Feeding Chittenden**  
Burlington

**Good Samaritan Haven**  
Barre



**Good Samaritan Haven**

“Every

day the 60 plus individuals in our shelters rely upon food from the VFB to meet their needs for a nutritious meal. Lets do everything we can to provide this daily bread.” – Rick DeAngelis, Co Executive Director, Good Samaritan Haven

**Grateful Hearts**  
Bennington

**Greater Bennington Community Services**  
Bennington

**Greater Bennington Community Services | Kitchen Cupboard**  
Bennington

**Groundworks Collaborative**  
Brattleboro

**Guilford Cares, Inc.**  
Guilford

**Hardwick Area Food Pantry**  
Hardwick

**Hazen Union School**  
Hardwick

**Heineberg Community Senior Center**  
Burlington

**Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors**  
Burlington

**His Pantry at Sacred Heart St Francis**  
Bennington

**HOPE (Helping Other People Everyday)**  
Lyndonville

**Hunger Free Vermont**  
South Burlington

**John Graham Housing & Services**  
Middlebury

**Just Basics, Inc**  
Montpelier

**Kingdom Community Services**  
St. Johnsbury

**Loaves & Fishes**  
Brattleboro

**Lunenburg Gilman & Concord Senior Citizens, Inc.**  
Lunenburg

**Lunenburg School**  
Lunenburg

**Lyndon Area Food Shelf**  
Lyndonville

**Maquam Bay of Missisquoi Inc**  
Swanton

**Montpelier Housing Authority**  
Montpelier

**Neighbors in Action**  
Lyndonville and Cabot

**NEK Neighbors Helping Neighbors**  
Lyndonville/Cabot

**NEKTI Consulting**  
Lowell

**NewStory Center**  
Rutland

**Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging**  
Newport

**Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont**  
Richmond

**Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital**  
St. Johnsbury

**Northgate Apartments/NROC**  
Burlington

**Orange East Senior Center**  
Bradford

**Orleans Elementary School**  
Orleans



“We have seen a

25% increase in visitors since March 2023, and our food expenses have been up 93% compared to this same time last year. Free and discounted food, as well as grants, from the Vermont Foodbank are hugely helpful to us in meeting this rising need in our rural NEK service area.” – Hannah Dreissigacker, Site Coordinator, Albany Food Share Site, Hardwick

**Our Community Cares Camp**  
Richmond

**Pittsford Food Shelf**  
Pittsford

**Planned Parenthood of Northern New England/Planned Parenthood Vermont Action Fund**  
Colchester

**Putney Foodshelf**  
Putney

**Richmond Food Shelf**  
Richmond

**Rutland Community Cupboard**  
Rutland

**Rutland County Parent Child Center**  
Rutland

**SASH**  
Brattleboro

**Senior Solutions**  
Springfield

**Shelburne Farms**  
Shelburne

**Sheldon Methodist Church Food Shelf**  
Sheldon

**Shires Housing**  
Bennington

**Slate Valley Cares**  
Fair Haven

**Slate Valley Union School District**  
Fair Haven

**St. Johnsbury Community HUB**  
St. Johnsbury

**St. Johnsbury Nutritional Center**  
St. Johnsbury

**St. Mark's Newport**  
Newport

**Steps to End Domestic Violence**  
Burlington

**Sunrise Family Resource Center**  
Bennington

**The Collaborative**  
Londonderry

**The Garland School**  
Brattleboro

**The Salvation Army**  
Barre

**Thetford Food Shelf, Inc**  
Thetford

**Twin Valley Senior Center**  
East Montpelier

**United Church of Newport Food Shelf**  
Newport

**Vergennes Community food shelf**  
Vergennes

**Vermont Foodbank**  
Barre

**Vermont Garden Network**  
Essex Junction

**Vital Communities**  
White River Junction

**Waits River Valley School**  
East Corinth

**Washington County Mental Health Services**  
Berlin

**Waterbury Common Market**  
Waterbury

**Westgate Housing Inc.**  
Brattleboro

**Williamstown Food Shelf**  
Williamstown

“The need is great. Our numbers have increased immensely in the last year. We want to help make sure no family or children go hungry in our community or in Vermont.” – Kathy Ducharme, President of the Board, Williamstown Food Shelf

**Winooski Food Shelf**  
Winooski

**Winooski School District**  
Winooski

**Woodbury and Lakeview Elementary Schools**  
Woodbury

**Woodbury/Calais Food Shelf**  
Woodbury/Calais

“Winooski Good Shelf is currently seeing client numbers almost as large as when Covid pandemic first began! We are feeding a thousand people each month! We are an all volunteer organization that relies on donations and the Vermont Foodbank to feed the community. The majority of our clients are BIPOC and rely heavily on the fresh produce made available thru the Vermont Foodbank.” – Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator