

Vermont Foodbank

2026 Briefing

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Vermont Foodbank



About Vermont Foodbank

- **The mission of Vermont Foodbank** is to gather and share quality food and nurture partnerships so that no one in Vermont will go hungry. In 2025 we distributed 14.5 million pounds of food.
- **Vermont Foodbank is the largest and only statewide Food Bank** serving all 14 counties in Vermont.
- **VF operates three distribution centers:**
 - **Barre** - our largest distribution center serving northern and central Vermont (Orange County & north)
 - **Brattleboro** - serving southern and eastern VT (Windsor, Windham, Bennington)
 - **Rutland** - serving central and western VT (Rutland & Addison)



Vermont Foodbank by the numbers

OUR IMPACT

More Than



14 Million Pounds of
Food Distributed

More Than



222 Vermont Farms
Supported

More Than



217 Network Partners
Shared Food with
Neighbors

Each month, Vermont Foodbank and our partners serve
an estimated **70,000 people** across Vermont.

Where the Food Comes From

FEDERAL FOODS



Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

DONATED FOODS

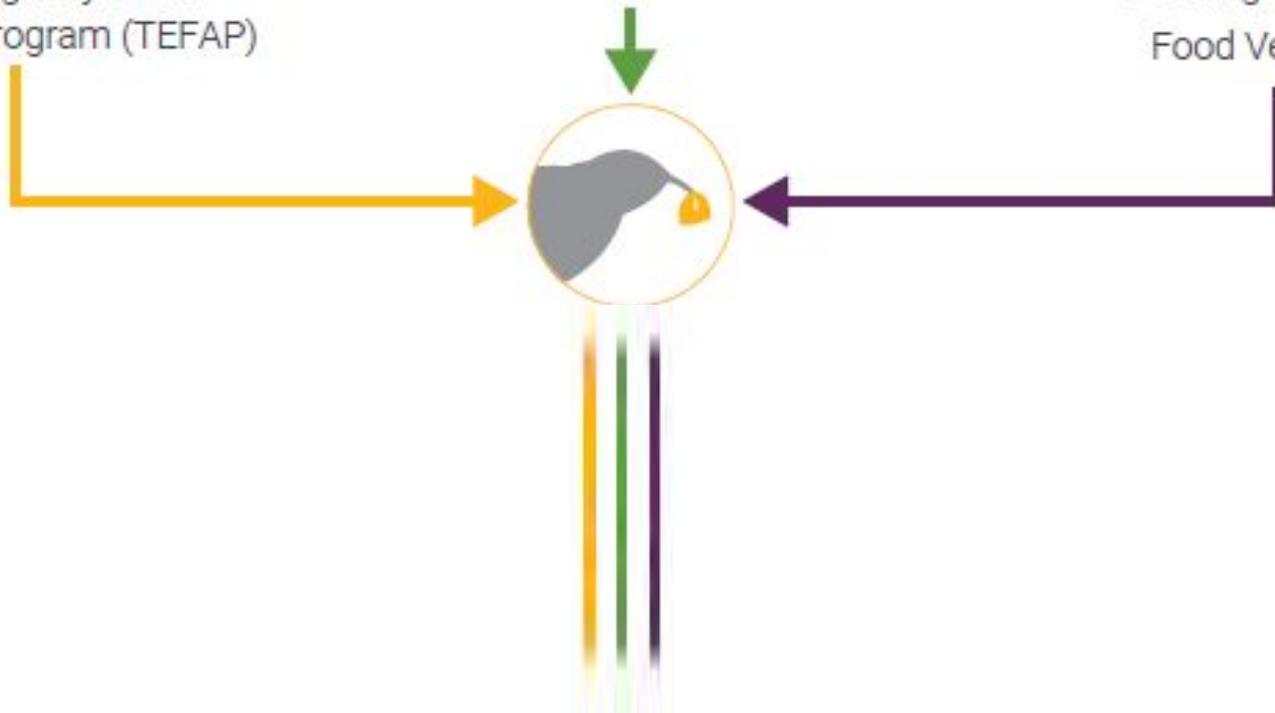


Corporate & Individual Donations

PURCHASED FOODS



Vermont Farms & Food Producers
Feeding America
Food Vendors



Details: where the food comes from

Donated Food

About 60% of food Vermont Foodbank comes from donations, from sources like:

- Local & regional grocery retailers
 - Includes fresh foods and shelf-stable grocery foods. keeping food out of landfills.
- Larger wholesale donations from manufacturers
- Community Food Drives
- Donated food has no limitations on who may receive it.

United States Department of Agriculture Food

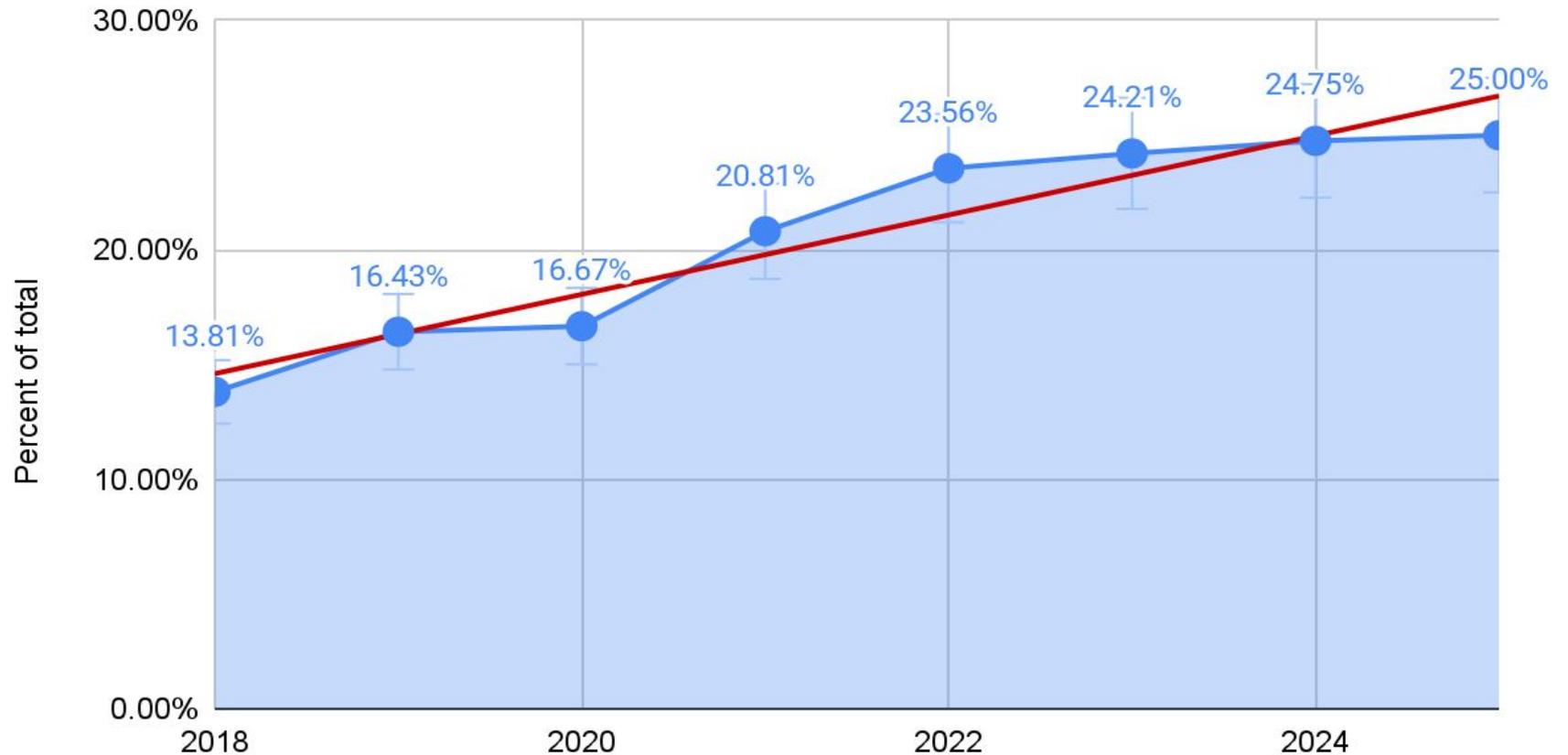
About 15-20% of the food distributed comes from the USDA, used to be called Commodity Food.

- Food for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Food for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- Program eligibility guidelines mean not everyone can access this food and about 70-80 partners carry this food at any time due to requirements, administrative burden, and dignity of shopping experience for neighbors.

Purchased Food

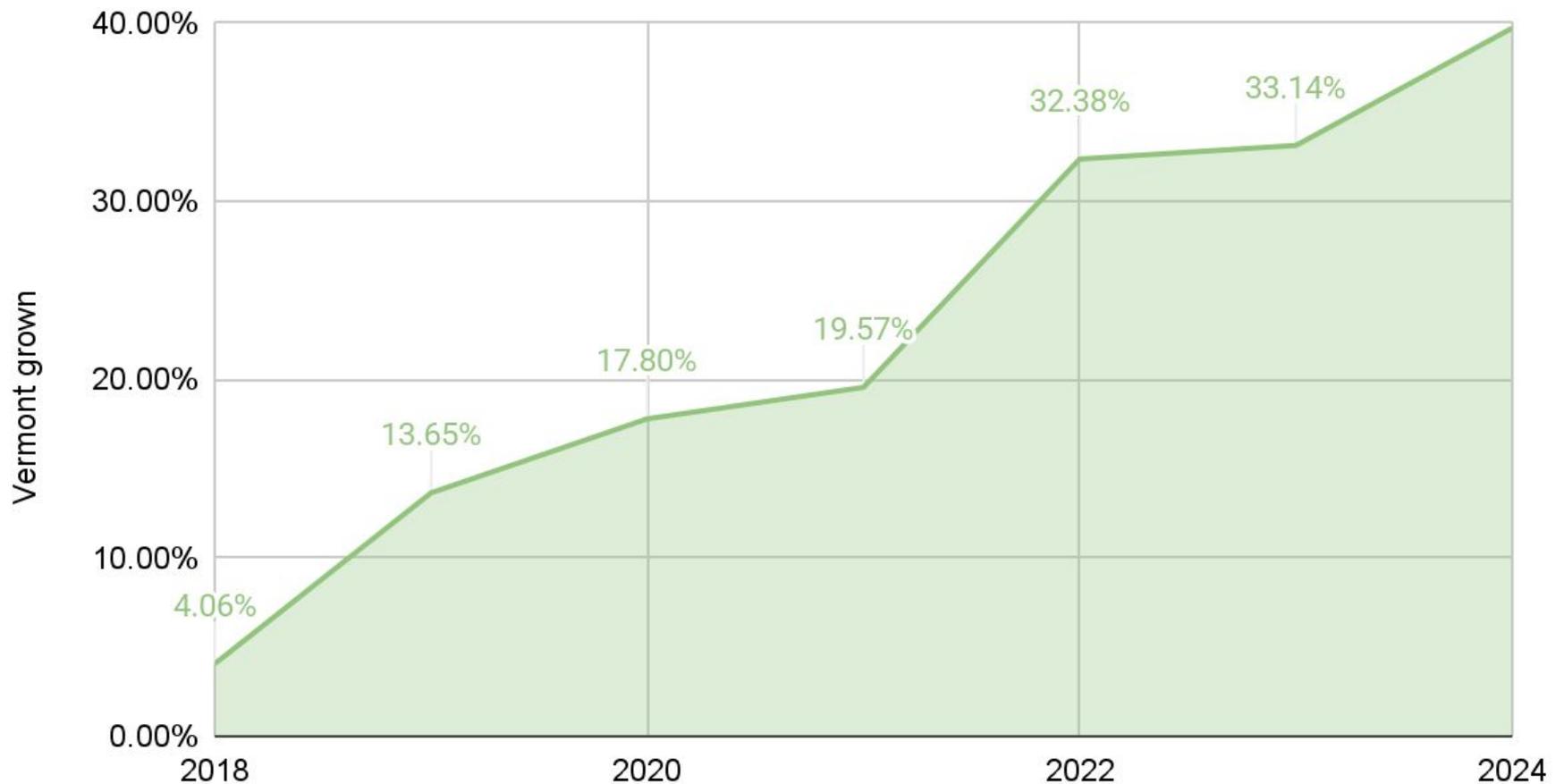
Grocery Foods & Produce are purchased to offer a variety of options to help keep shelves stocked and food on tables.

Purchased pounds as % of total pounds distributed

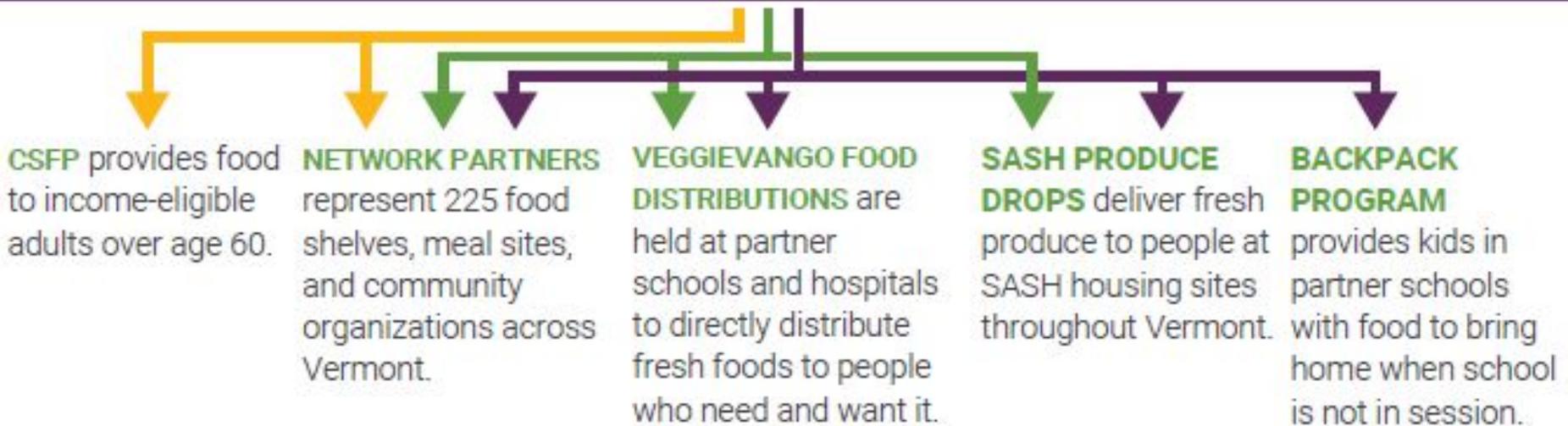


Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Local Food

Vermont-grown food as % of purchased food



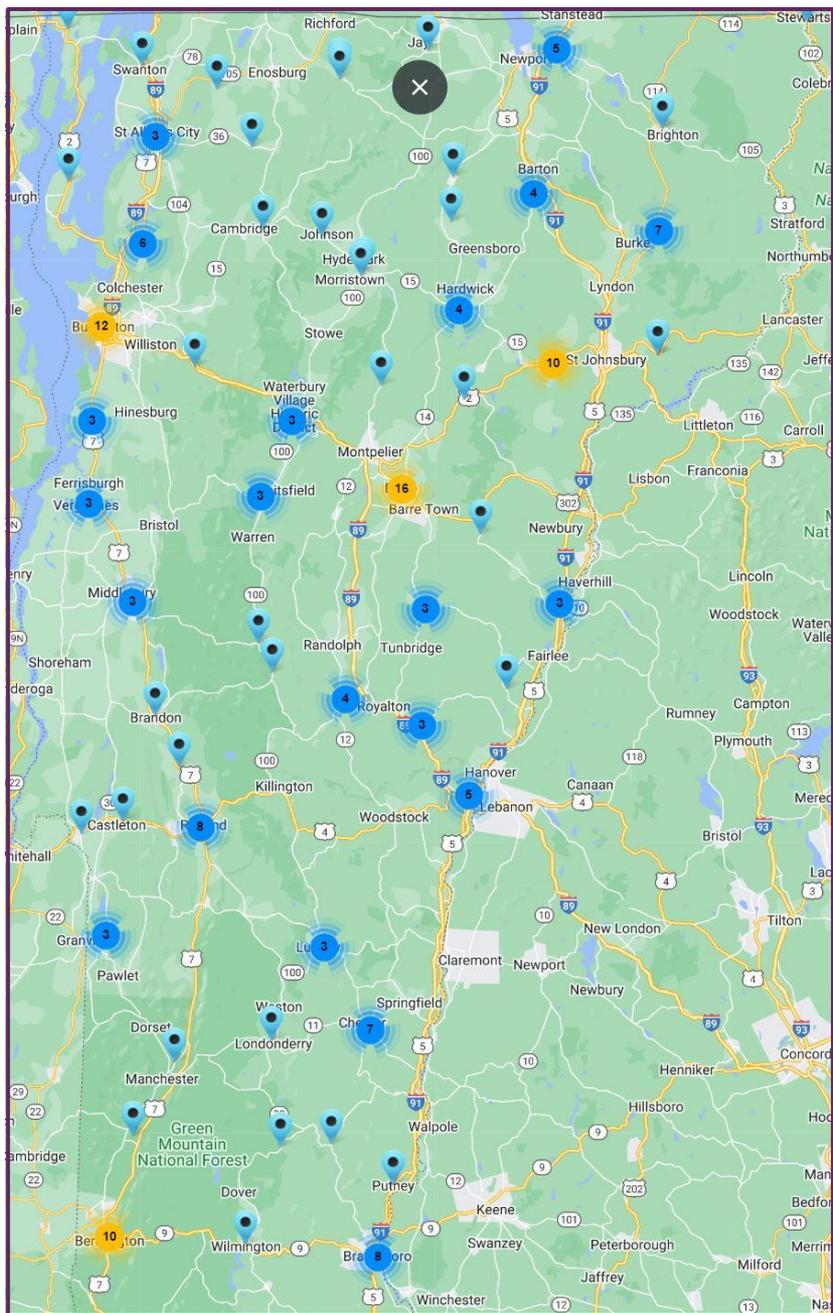
Where the Food Goes



Learn More at vtfoodbank.org

- **VF also supports your constituents** with food, 3SquaresVT application assistance, and through our network of partner organizations.

SERVICE

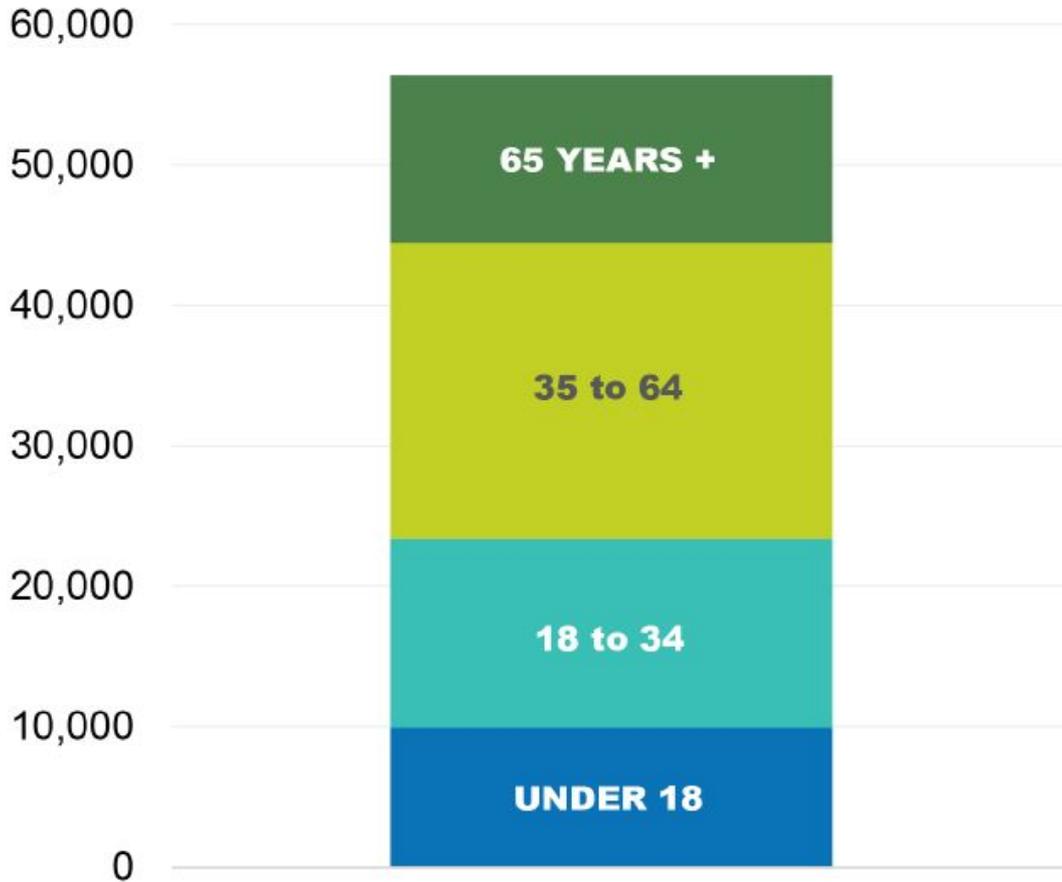


We Work With
MORE THAN 215
Food Shelves, Meal Sites, Hospitals,
Schools, & Community Partners

Serving All
14 Counties
of Vermont

56,000 Vermonters live in poverty, many of them children and seniors

Number of Vermonters below the poverty level, by age, 2024



Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024, 1-yr estimates

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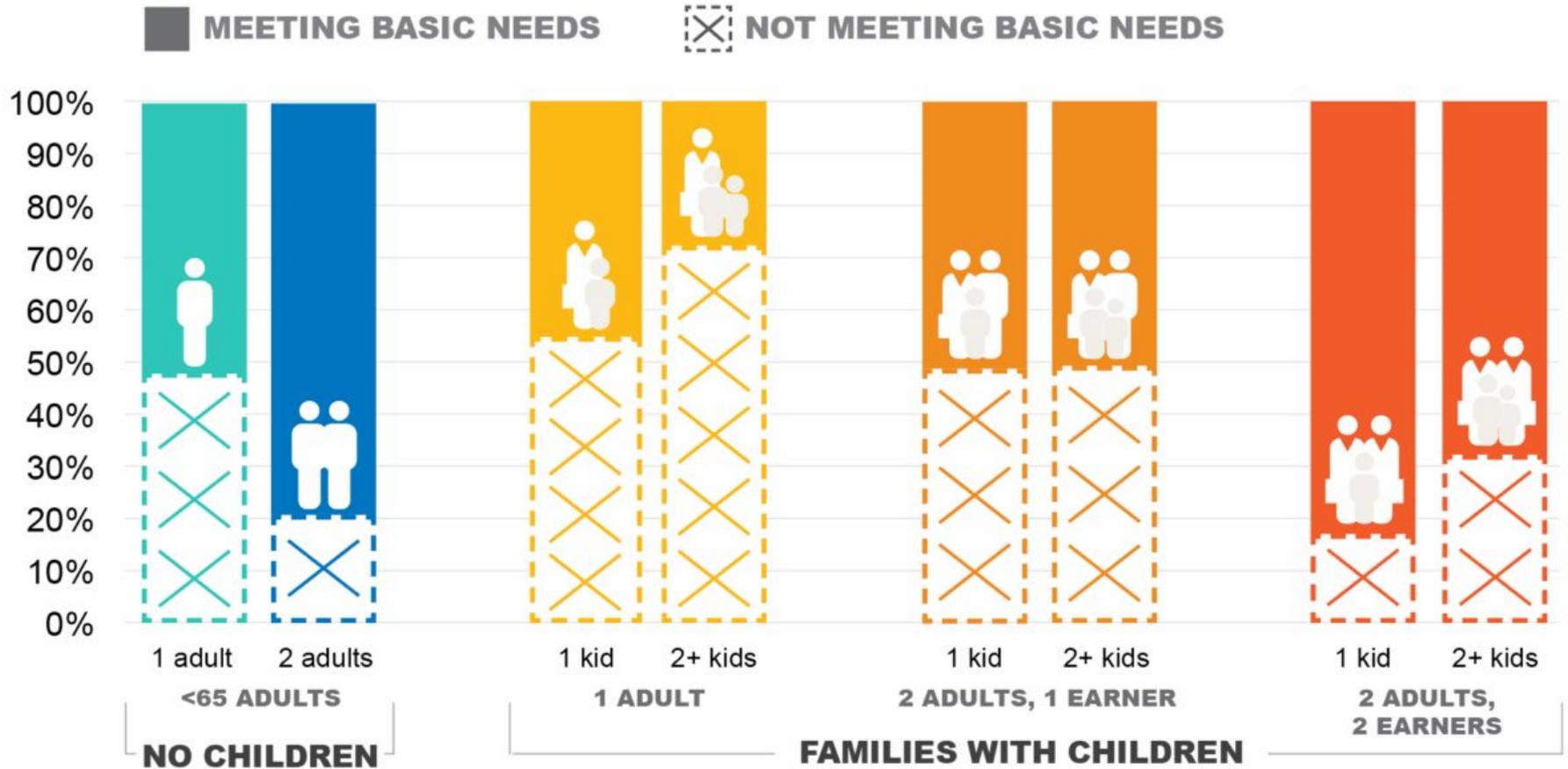
Poverty threshold by family size, 2024

Number of people	Family income
1	\$15,940
2	\$20,220
3	\$24,950
4	\$32,130
5	\$38,110
6	\$43,130
7	\$48,970
8	\$54,740
9	\$64,900

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau
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Many Vermont households have income below basic needs threshold

Share of families with enough income to meet basic needs, by family type and work status, 2023



Data sources: Vermont Joint Fiscal Office and IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org, 2021-23 1-yr estimates

Systemic Challenges & Urgent Solutions

The State of Vermont can make policy choices to ensure food security for everyone who lives here.

Right now, government **must support the charitable food system** to improve food security for everyone in Vermont.

Together, we continue the work **for permanent, dignified, and sustainable food security solutions.**

Impacts on food security are some of the **longest-lasting after-effects** of disasters & disruptions.

FY27 Budget Request

Vermont Foodbank (VF) is seeking **\$5 million total in FY27 from the State of Vermont:**

- **\$2 million** for Vermonters Feeding Vermonters grant program at VAAFV
- **\$2 million** to support our network with food purchase and distribution
- **\$1 million** in base funding for Ready Response

\$2 million for Vermonters Feeding Vermonters

The State can support neighbors with the food they need today and support Vermont Farms by appropriating \$2 million for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters program. In collaboration with VAAFM, Vermont Foodbank and partners purchase local food from Vermont farms for distribution to neighbors at food shelves and direct distributions across Vermont.

- Buying direct from farmers and paying market price for Vermont-produced food supports our local food economy.
- People need, want and have requested local food from Vermont Foodbank and our network partners.
- For every \$1 spent by purchasing local products through Vermonters Feeding Vermonters, we generate \$1.60 in economic activity



\$2 million for Network Partner Support

Economic, social, and environmental changes and uncertainty continue to make it difficult for people in Vermont to meet their basic needs. Neighbor visits to our network of food shelves and meal sites are more frequent and people are seeking more food each visit. **\$2 million in funding will support food purchasing and distribution to continue to keep shelves stocked across the state.**

- The State of Vermont can lean into leadership and help to fill the need that is in our communities so Vermont Foodbank's network partners can maintain the current level of support for our neighbors.
- This request is responsive to the needs of neighbors and our network of partner organizations serving people's basic food needs.



\$1 million for Ready Response

Vermont Foodbank seeks to formalize an agreement with the State with a **\$1 million base appropriation through Vermont Emergency management**. This will ensure that our warehouses are stocked, our fleet is ready, and that we and our network are resourced to meet challenges today and ready to help people recover.

- We know that weather-related disasters are now an expected occurrence that will impact communities. VF's network partners are also impacted in these times of acute and dire need.
- This emergent need has become especially clear in the past 3 years. Vermont Emergency Management has not had a way to fill this need. Vermont Foodbank has the expertise and statewide network to help Vermont communities be prepared for emergency situations.
- Building this Ready Response System requires ongoing funding from the State to allow for necessary planning and collaboration.
- Our network is already at maximum capacity. We need resources to plan and prepare for disasters, so that we can support community-level needs in different



Our State House Team



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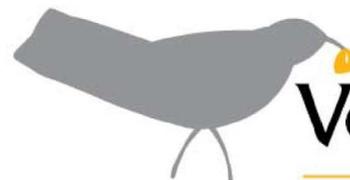
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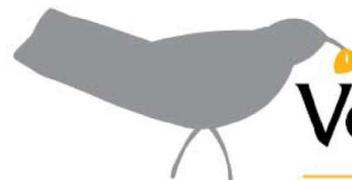
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Questions?



Thank you!

We look forward to continuing our work together to create full food security in Vermont.



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