

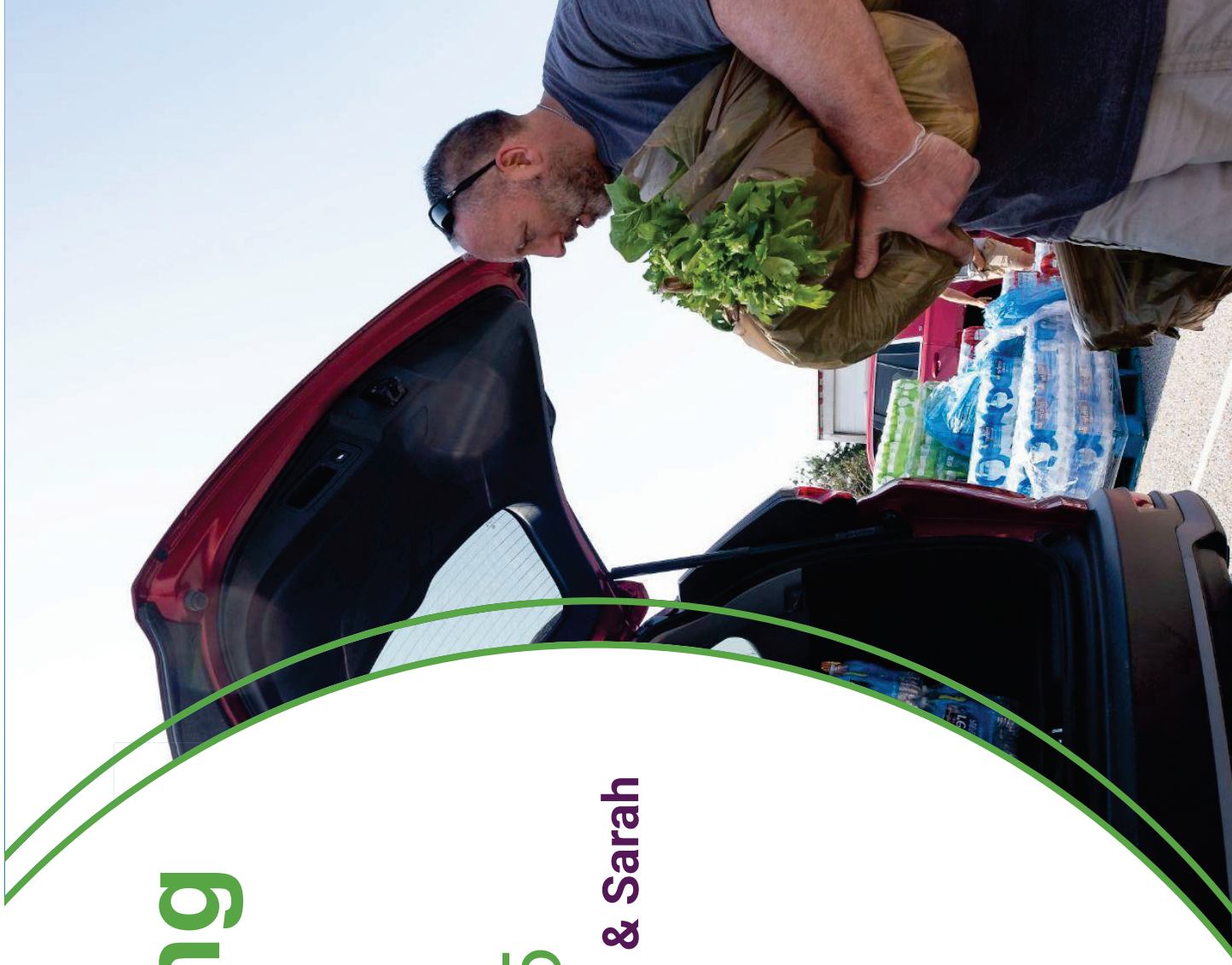
# 2025 Briefing Vermont Foodbank

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# 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.
- **Vermont Foodbank is the largest and only statewide Food Bank** serving all 14 counties in Vermont.
- **VF operate 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)

# About Vermont Foodbank

- **VF distributes millions of pounds of food** through our network and direct distributions - 14.5 million in 2024, currently on track for 14.9 million pounds in 2025.
- **VF supports your constituents** with food, 3SquaresVT application assistance, and through our network of partner organizations.
- **VF operates the State SNAP Education program VT Fresh** providing fresh food recipes and cooking demos

# VT Foodbank by the numbers

## IMPACT

More Than



72,000 People  
Served Each Month,  
on Average

More Than



14.5 Million Pounds of  
Food Distributed

More Than



299 Vermont Farms  
Supported

More Than



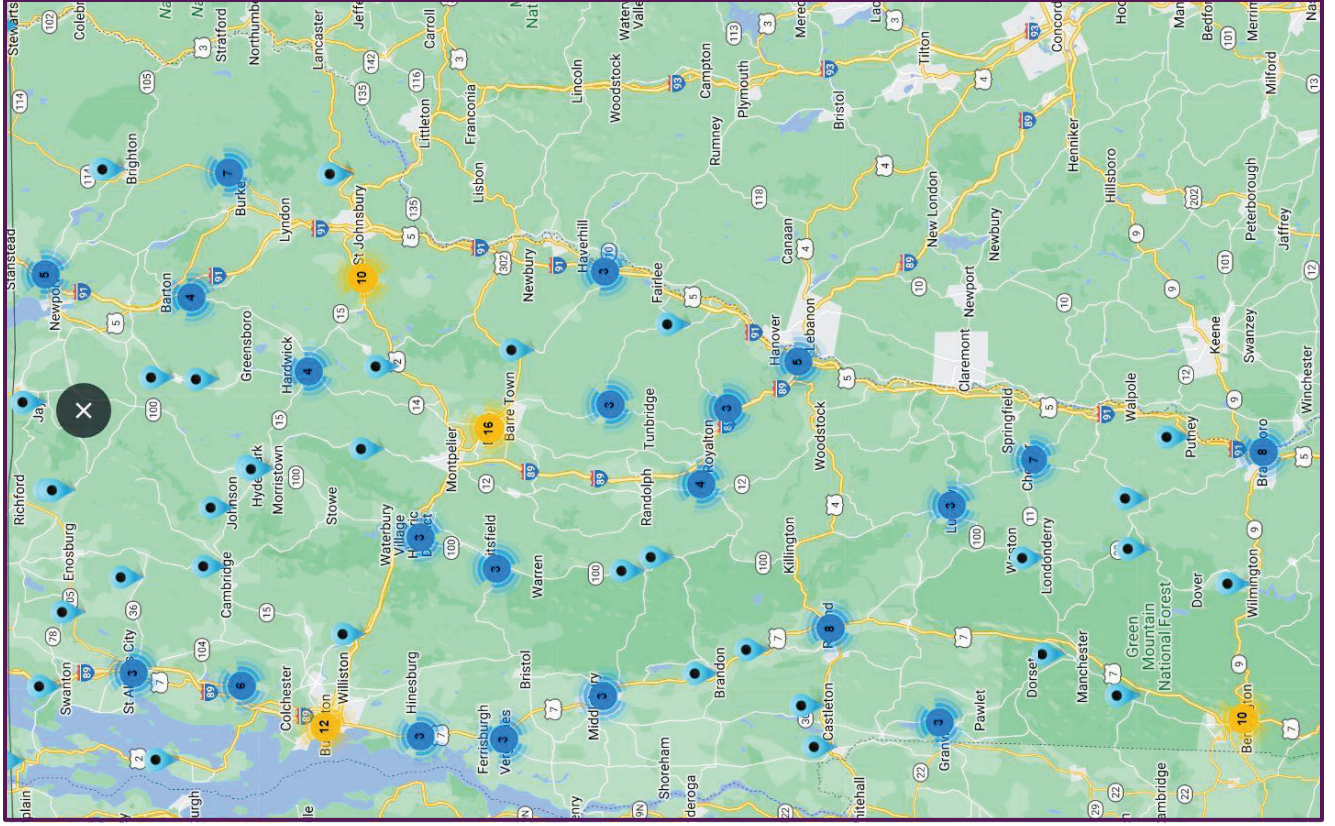
215 Network Partners  
Shared Food with  
Neighbors



# SERVICE

We Work With  
**MORE THAN 220**  
Food Shelves, Meal Sites, Hospitals,  
Schools, & Community Partners

Serving All  
**14 Counties**  
of Vermont



# Where the Food Comes From

## FEDERAL FOODS



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

## DONATED FOODS

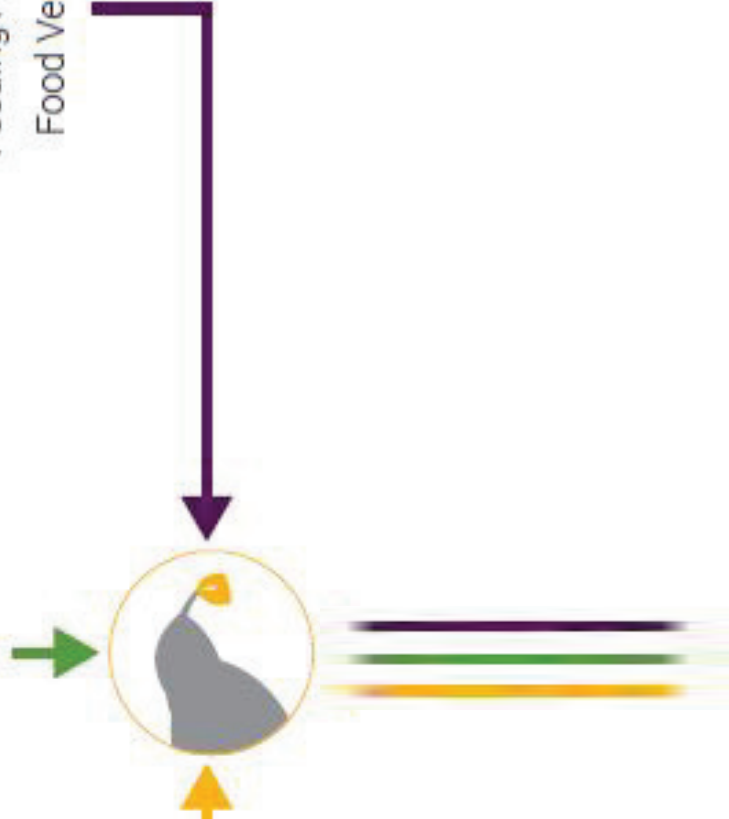


Local Farm Gleaning  
Corporate & Individual Donations

## PURCHASED FOODS



Vermont Farms & Food Producers  
Feeding America  
Food Vendors



## Where the Food Goes



Learn More at [vtfoodbank.org](http://vtfoodbank.org)



# Federal-State-Vermont Foodbank partnership

Vermont Foodbank is the agency designated to carry out several federal food programs in collaboration with state agency staff:

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** - in collaboration with the Agency of Education. The program provides USDA foods to qualifying households through our network of food shelves and meal sites. Food is federally funded, but federal funding has not kept up with storage and distribution costs.

**Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** - in collaboration with Agency of Human Services, Department of Aging and Independent Living. Program provides a monthly food box of USDA foods to adults over 60 with qualifying income.

**3SquaresVT Application Assistance** - Vermont Foodbank is the only statewide application assister helping neighbors sign up for 3SquaresVT.

**SNAP Education** - Vermont Foodbank carries operates VT Fresh, the Vermont version of SNAP Education making fresh food more accessible to people through recipes and cooking demonstrations.

# Where does food come from?

## **Donated Food**

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

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

## **United States Department of Agriculture Food**

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

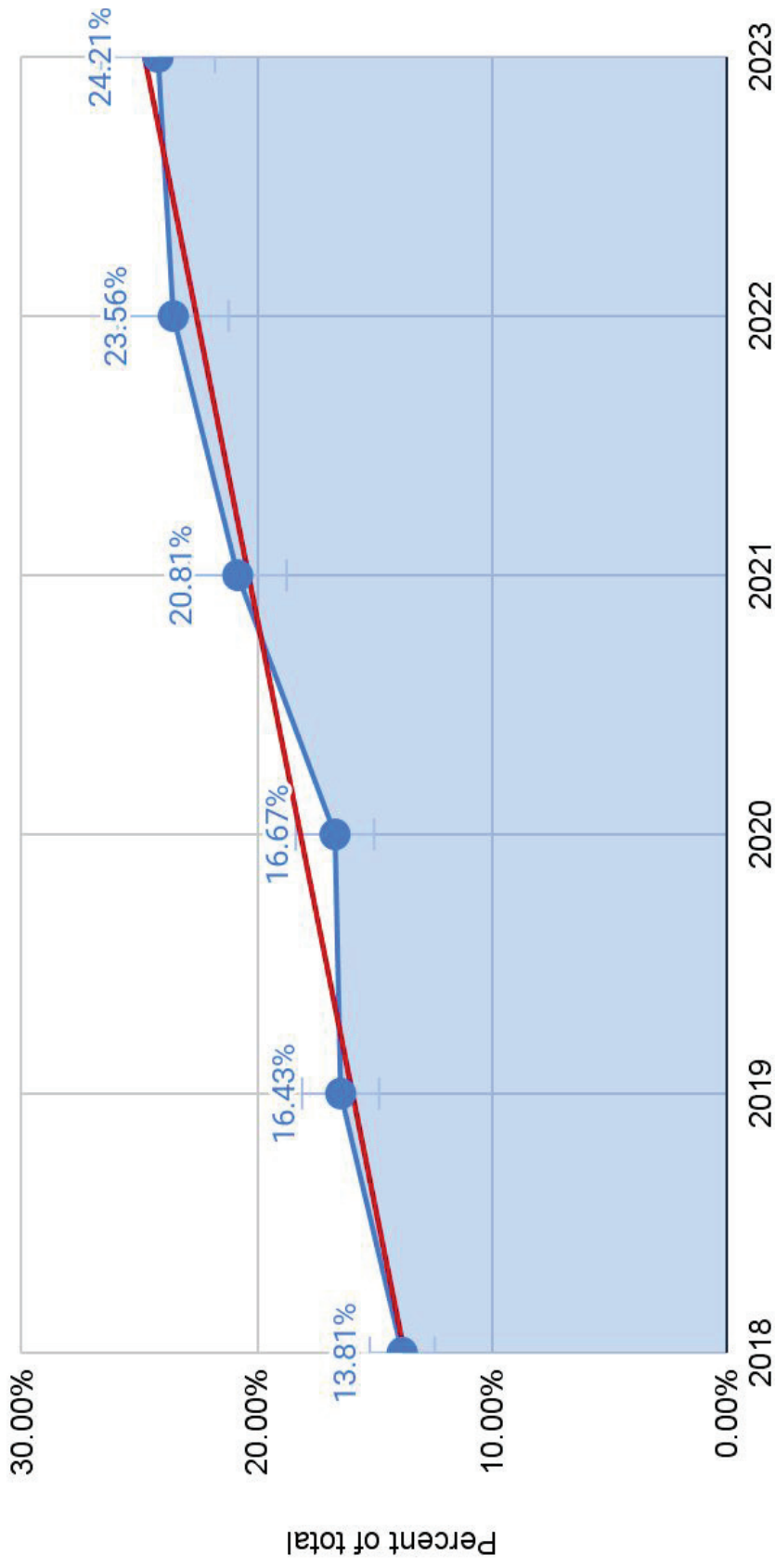
- Food for The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Food for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- Program eligibility guidelines mean not everyone can access this food and about 70-85 partners carry this food at any time due to requirements, administrative burden, and dignity of shopping experience 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



# Purchased Food

Local Vermont food has been a significant quantity of purchased food thanks to investments in Vermonters Feeding Vermonters from the Legislature and State of Vermont.

Vermont-grown food as % of purchased food



# From our Neighbors



"This is a really special thing that the Vermont Foodbank does for our communities. I know some people who wait all month for this just to feel that sense of security to know food will be in the fridge and on the table. It's really helpful & I'm so blessed to be a recipient of such nutrition and help from VVG." ~ Neighbor using VeggieVanGo

"In order to eat properly, like you should when you're diabetic, it would cost a lot of money." ~ Neighbor

"The Vermont Foodbank is vital in helping our neighbors and their families stay fed. We would not be able to provide the food we do, in the quantities that we do, without the Foodbank. There are so many people in need, with the rising costs of living and food, and it's especially important we continue to be able to aid our families." ~ Pittsford Food Shelf

# What we know - 3SquaresVT

- 3SVT our state's best and most effective hunger relief program offering access to a variety of food to meet dietary needs, cultural and food preferences, and flexibility to shop at grocery stores, country stores, and farmers market.
- ~69,000 individuals or 40,000 households rely on 3SquaresVT each month.
- Vermont Foodbank and our network serve many people who receive 3SVT benefits. Benefit amounts are not adequate to meet the needs of many recipients.

# Comparison of Eligibility

TEFAP, CSFP, 3SquaresVT

Household/ Family Size	130% FPL (CSFP)	185% FPL (3SVT)	300% FPL (TEFAP)
1	<b>\$19,578/yr</b> \$1,631.50/mo	<b>\$27,861/yr</b> \$2,321.75/mo	<b>\$45,180/yr</b> \$3,765/mo
2	<b>\$26,572/yr</b> \$2,214.33/mo	<b>\$37,814/yr</b> \$3,151.17/mo	<b>\$61,320/yr</b> \$5,110/yr
4	<b>\$40,560/yr</b> \$3,380/mo	<b>\$57,720/yr</b> \$4,810/mo	<b>\$93,600/yr</b> \$7,800/mo

- Donated Food is available for everyone with no restrictions
- Purchased food is available for everyone with no restrictions



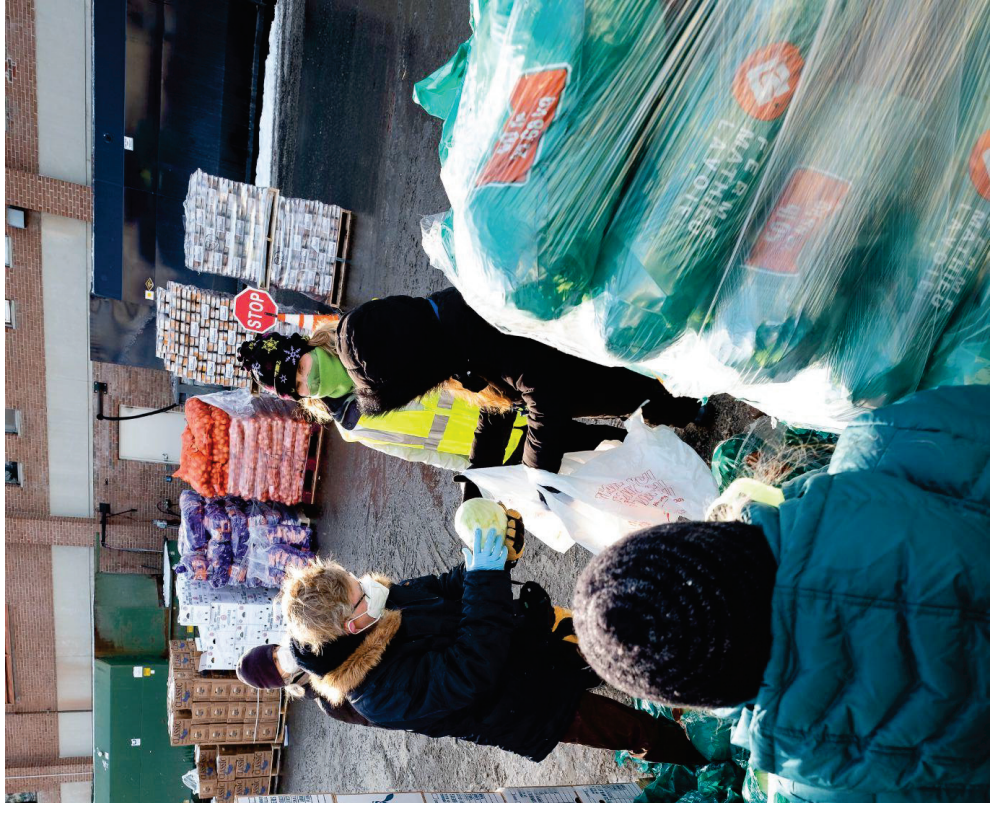
# Hunger in Vermont



# Food Security Disruptions: before & throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

## Prior to 2020

- Food insecurity had been declining steadily since peaking during the Great Recession in 2008 and had been holding steady at 1 in 10 Vermonters for several years.
- After the Great Recession, it took **10 years to return to pre-recession levels of hunger**
- At that time, Vermont Foodbank was serving **1 in 4 people in Vermont annually**
- A food insecurity rate with **1 in 10 people experiencing food insecurity** is an unacceptable level of hunger as the status quo

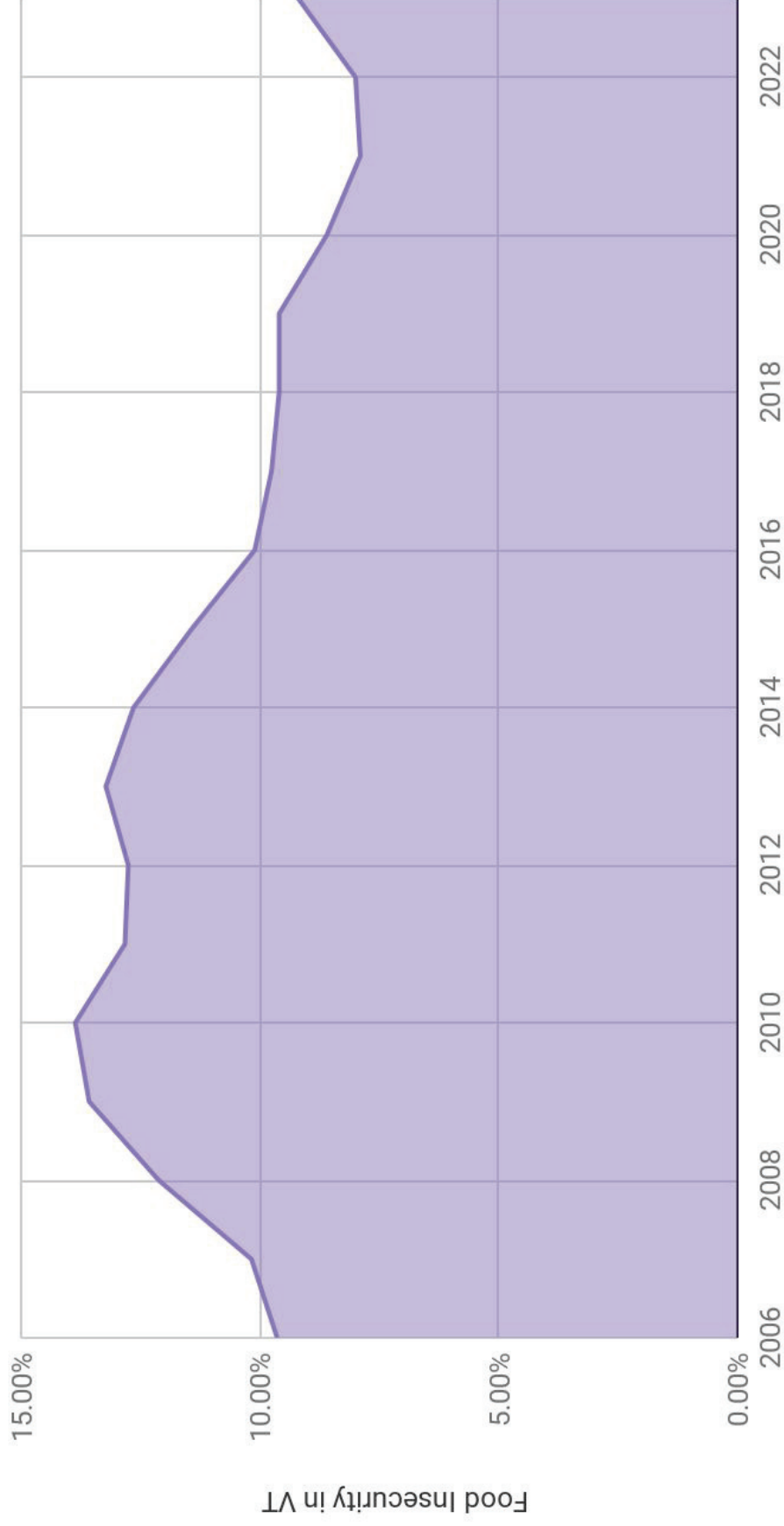


# Food Security Data is Complex

- We rely on multiple sources of data, including program participation data, our own network partners and direct distribution data
- USDA data is a rolling 3-year average, meaning the data from the most recent year is found using data from the prior years, so is not the “moment in time” it appears to be
- The data shared today is to give you a broad overview of what food security looks like for Vermont but what is often missing is WHY this data is what it is, which is a more complex answer than Vermont Foodbank can provide, our work is part of the solution.

# Food Security Disruptions: before & throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

Vermont Food Security Rate 2006 - 2023 (USDA)





# The Impact of Floods on Hunger

- More food was distributed due to flood impacts. Vermont Foodbank saw a large **increase in food distributed in the month after flood events**.
- It is not just the impact of closed stores, food pantries, and washed out roads. **Housing, job loss, and families supporting additional family members stretches already stressed systems and households**.
- **Challenges are not localized to flooded towns** - people cross town borders to access food and impacted farms are all over the state.
- These multiple, intersecting challenges on top of the pre-existing hunger crisis **create a long tail for recovery\***.

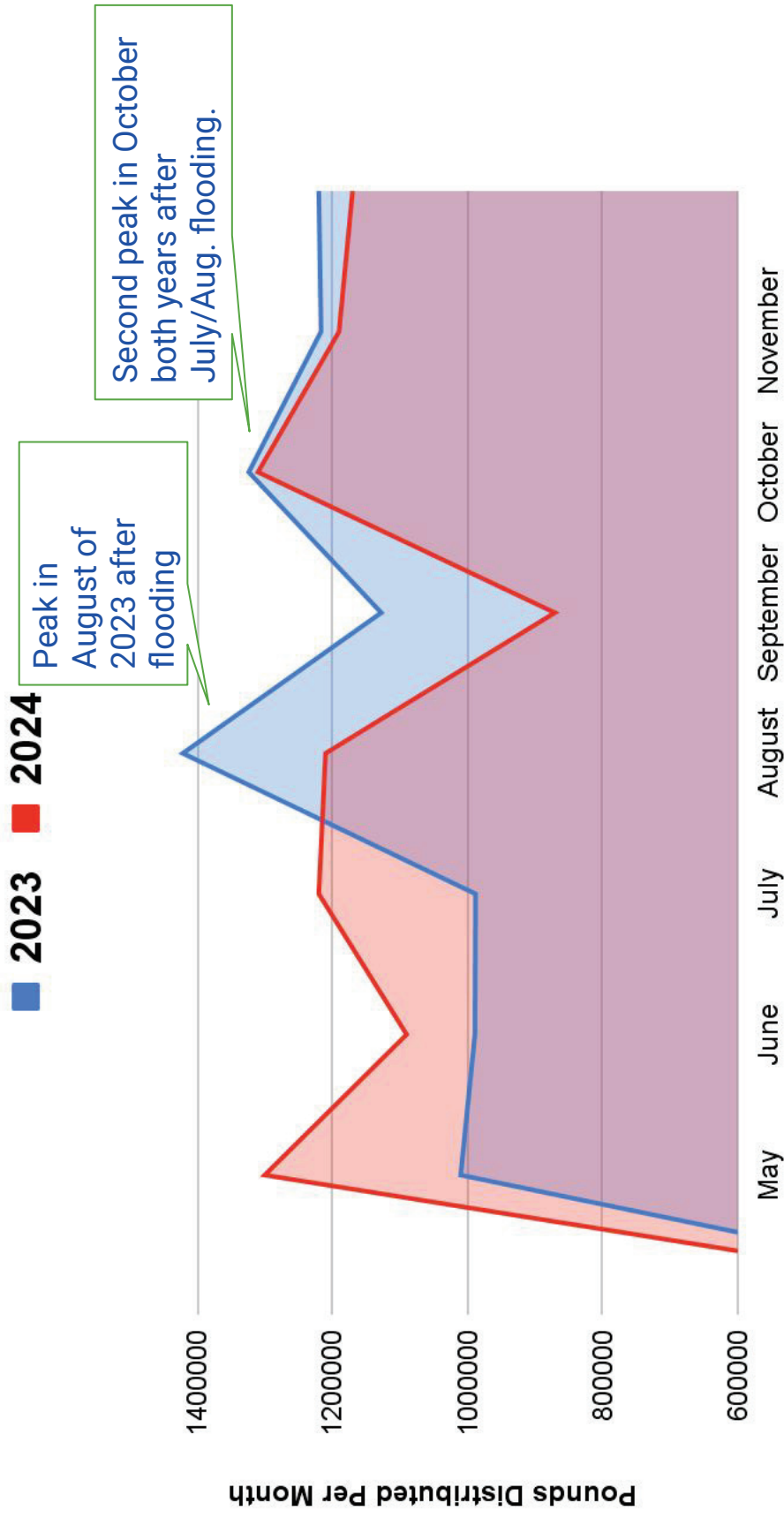
*\*2022 Report: Social Vulnerability & Natural Disasters: 5 Years After Hurricane Harvey; Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston*



# What we know - pounds distributed

Disruptions of all types impact what our neighbors need

Most recently, flooding has caused sharp increases in the need for food in communities across the state.



# Systemic Challenges

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

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

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

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

# What you can do:

The Vermont Foodbank (VF) is seeking **\$5 million total in FY26 from the State of**

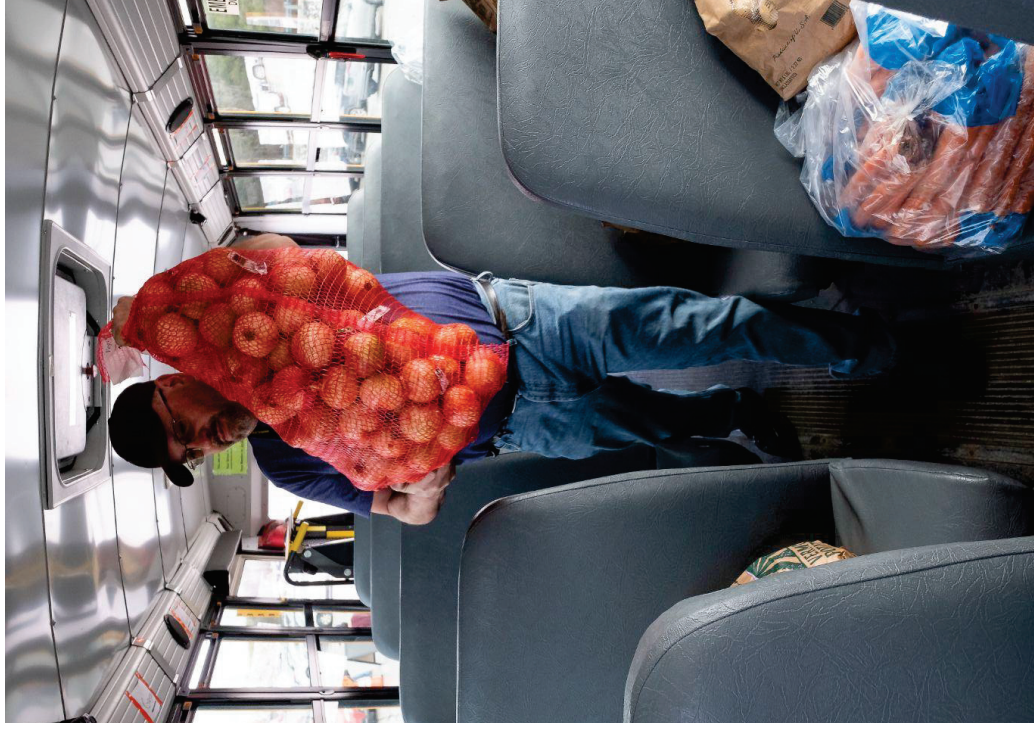
## **Vermont:**

- **\$1.75 million** in base funding for Responsive Readiness
- **\$3.25 million** for food purchase and distribution

# Vermont Foodbank Request

## **Responsive Readiness:**

- Vermont Foodbank seeks to formalize an agreement with the State with a **\$1.75 million base budget 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.

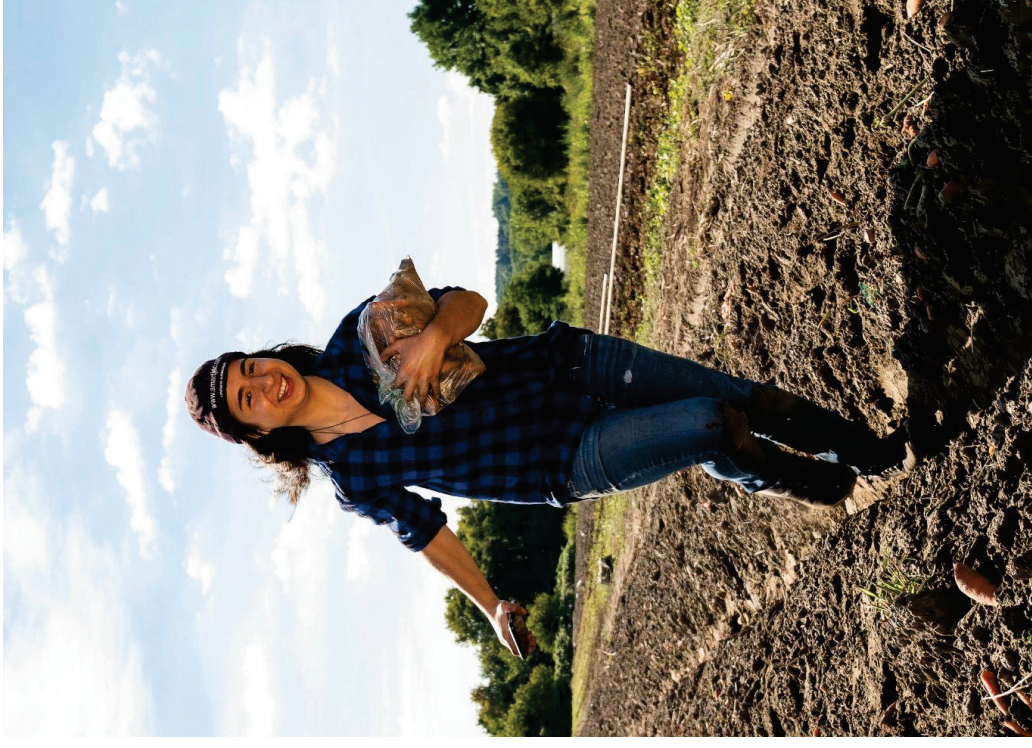




# Vermont Foodbank Request

## Food Purchase & Distribution:

- **The State can support neighbors with the food they need today, including food from Vermont farms with the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters program.** Through this program, the Vermont Foodbank purchases Vermont-grown food directly from farms and distributes it throughout the Vermont Foodbank network of food shelves and meal sites, and program partners like housing sites, hospitals and schools.





# Our State House Team

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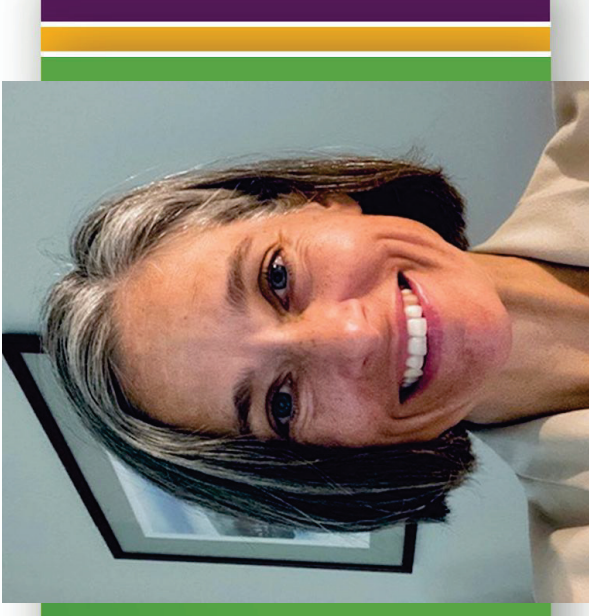
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**Vermont Foodbank**  
[vtfoodbank.org](http://vtfoodbank.org)

# Thank you!

We look forward to working together to  
create a more food secure Vermont.



**Vermont Foodbank**  
— [vtfoodbank.org](http://vtfoodbank.org)