

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

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

State funding is required to address the sustained, increased need for access to food in communities throughout Vermont and to support our 215+ network of partner food shelves and meal sites who are doing this work on main streets across the state.

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 VF warehouses are stocked, our fleet is ready, and that VF and their network are resourced to meet challenges today and ready to help people recover.

Food Purchase and Distribution: Vermonters continue to experience food insecurity at a rate that has increased in recent years. We know the State of Vermont can make policy choices that will ensure food security for everyone who lives here. Some of those policy choices will take time to pass and implement. 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.

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

Capstone Community Action

Barre

Our Place Drop In Center

Bellows Falls

Bible Baptist Church of Bennington

Bennington

Greater Bennington Community Services

Bennington

His Pantry at Sacred Heart St Francis

Bennington

Bradford Churches Food Shelf

Bradford

Orange East Senior Center

Bradford

Brandon Area Food Shelf/Brandon Senior Citizens Center

Brandon

Groundworks Collaborative

Brattleboro

Loaves and Fishes

Brattleboro

The Garland School

Brattleboro

Have-A-Heart Food Shelf - Bristol

Bristol

Cathedral Square

Burlington

Intervale Center

Burlington

Cambridge Community Food Shelf

Cambridge

Chester-Andover Family Centre

Chester, Andover

The Josh Pallotta Fund and Josh's House

Colchester

Sid's Pantry

Concord

Craftsbury Food Share

Craftsbury

Twin Valley Senior Center

East Montpelier

Gilman Senior Center

Gilman

Grafton Community Church Foodpantry

Grafton

Feeding the Valley Alliance

Hancock

Praise Chapel Outreach

Hartford

Hinesburg Community Resource Center

Hinesburg

Darling Inn Senior Meal Site Inc

Lyndon

"The need in our community has been steadily increasing over the past 2 years. We rely on the Vermont Foodbank to help us source food to offer in our community. We support the need and are strong advocates for policy change to move the needle for a food secure future for Vermont, but the need for food right now to help our neighbors remains. Supporting this funding for the Vermont Foodbank is essential."

Natalie Basil

Greater Bennington Community Services



“Our food shelf serves hundreds of Vermonters every month, and the need is only increasing. The cost of food has increased substantially the last three years, and food costs have not gone down. People are waiting at the food shelf as we open it. We serve anyone that walks through the door and needs food - including working families, elderly folks, new Americans. Please support the Vermont Foodbank so that people can get their basic needs met.”

Mary Joy Patchett

Richmond Food Shelf & Thrift Store



Lyndon Area Food Shelf

Lyndon

Shares Corporation

Lyndonville

Neighbors in Action

Lyndonville, Cabot

Community Food Cupboard

Manchester

John Graham Housing & Services

Middlebury

Family Center of Washington County

Montpelier

Just Basics, Inc

Montpelier

Lamoille Community Food Share

Morrisville

Kindle Farm School

Newfane

Champlain Islands Food Shelf

North Hero

Putney Foodshelf

Putney

Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf

Reading, West Windsor

Richmond Food Shelf & Thrift Store

Richmond

Roxbury Food Shelf

Roxbury

BROC Community Action

Rutland

Companions In Wholeness

Rutland

NewStory Center

Rutland

Rutland County Parent Child Center

Rutland

Sharon Food Shelf

Sharon

Sheffield Food Pantry

Sheffield

Kingdom Community Services

St Johnsbury

RuralEdge

St Johnsbury

Thetford Food Shelf, Inc

Thetford

Townshend Community Food Shelf

Townshend

Boys and Girls Club of Greater

Vergennes

Vergennes

Vergennes Community Food Shelf

Vergennes

Vernon Advent Church - Bread of Life Food Pantry

Vernon

Waterbury Common Market

Waterbury

Our Neighbors' Table

Wells

Westgate Housing Inc

Westgate

Upper Valley Haven, Inc.

White River Jct

Williamstown Food Shelf

Williamstown

Woodbury/Calais Food Shelf

Woodbury, Calais

Woodstock Community Food Shelf

Woodstock

Worcester Community Kitchen and Food Shelf

Worcester

“Without the Vermont Foodbank's programs, Feeding the Valley Alliance could not provide food to our neighbors in the Upper White River Valley (Rochester, Hancock, Granville mainly). We depend on monthly distributions from the Veggie Van Go program. This program helps us to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to an average of about 40 families per month. Our numbers fluctuate between 35 families and up to 77 families. These are small rural communities (combined pop. of less than 2500) with many senior citizens and working families. Often they don't qualify for aid but still struggle to meet their needs every month. Our distributions provide, much needed fresh food, a little bit of relief, and a moment to share community and reconnect with neighbors at the distributions. For our delivery folks, we are often able to check in on seniors who may live alone or be otherwise isolated. Please consider the downstream impacts of this funding. It does not stop at the Foodbank - the benefits trickle down to rural communities with limited access to transportation and food purchasing choices.”

Monica Collins - Feeding the Valley Alliance