

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



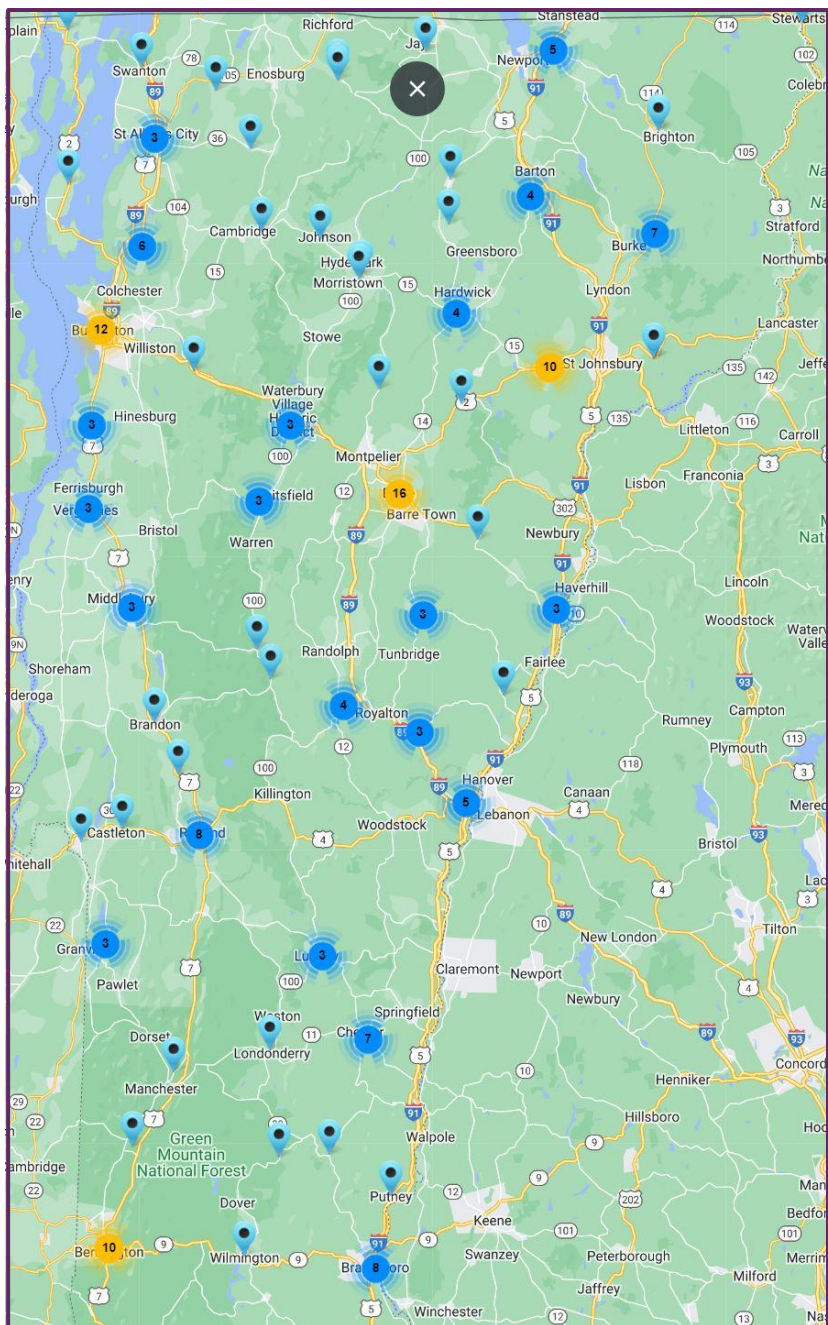
299 Vermont Farms
Supported

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



CSFP provides food to income-eligible adults over age 60.

NETWORK PARTNERS represent 225 food shelves, meal sites, and community organizations across Vermont.

VEGGIEVANGO FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS are held at partner schools and hospitals to directly distribute fresh foods to people who need and want it.

SASH PRODUCE DROPS deliver fresh produce to people at SASH housing sites throughout Vermont.

BACKPACK PROGRAM provides kids in partner schools with food to bring home when school is not in session.

Learn More at 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

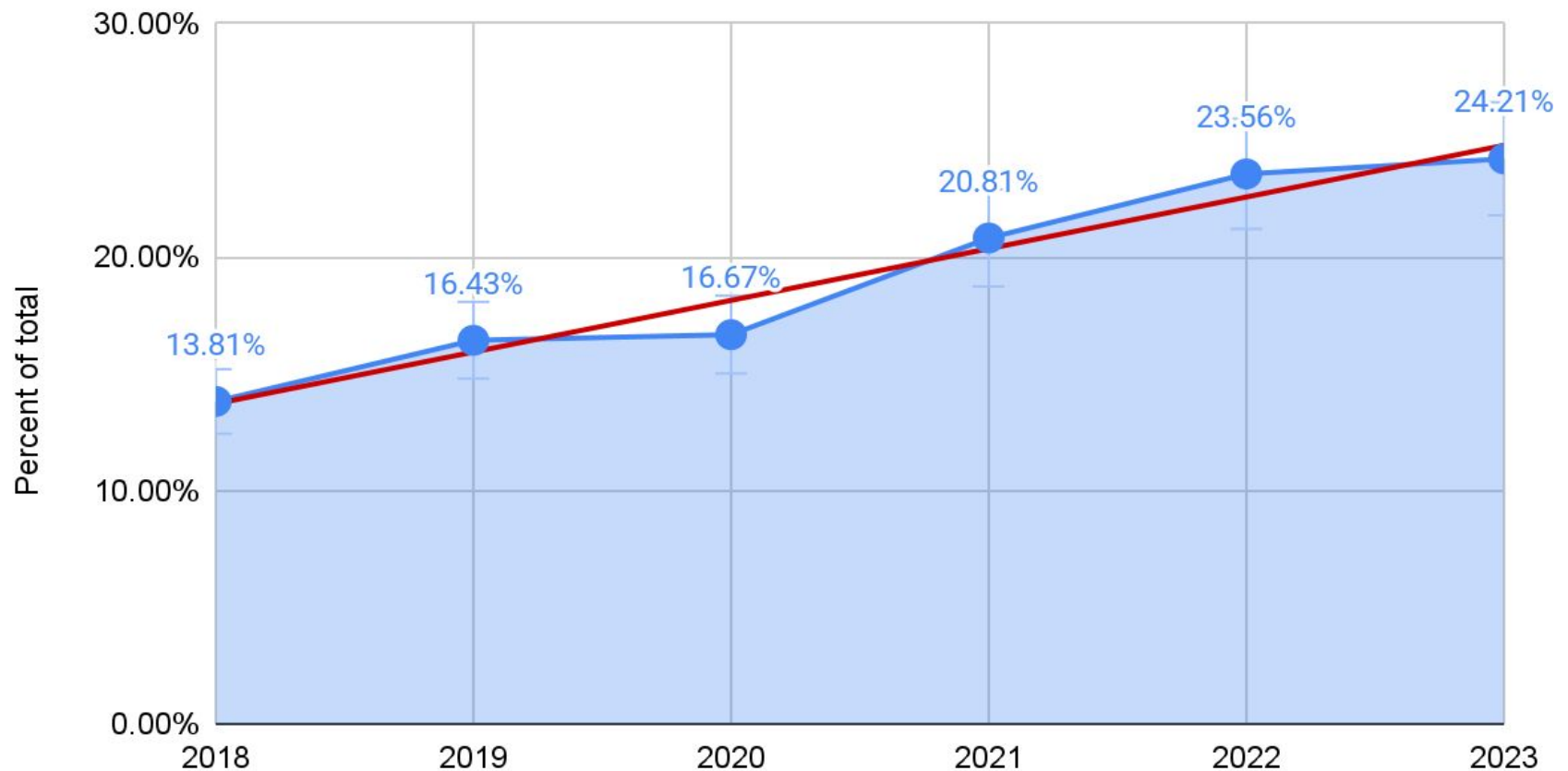
About 15-20% of the food distributed comes from the USDA, used to be called Commodity Food.

- 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.

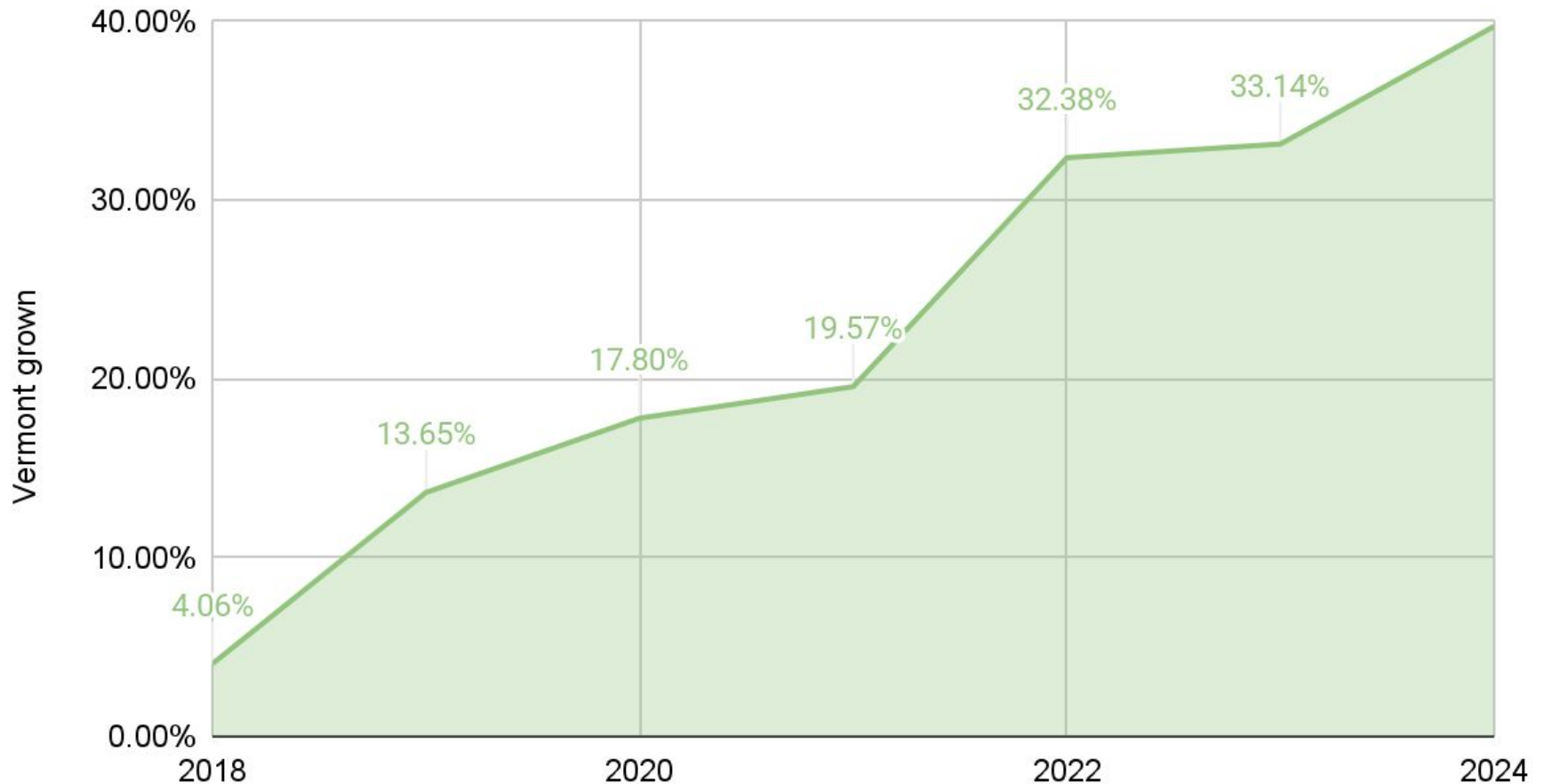
Purchased pounds as % of total pounds distributed



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 is 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 its 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	\$19,578/yr \$1,631.50/mo	\$27,861/yr \$2,321.75/mo	\$45,180/yr \$3,765/mo
2	\$26,572/yr \$2,214.33/mo	\$37,814/yr \$3,151.17/mo	\$61,320/yr \$5,110/yr
4	\$40,560/yr \$3,380/mo	\$57,720/yr \$4,810/mo	\$93,600/yr \$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

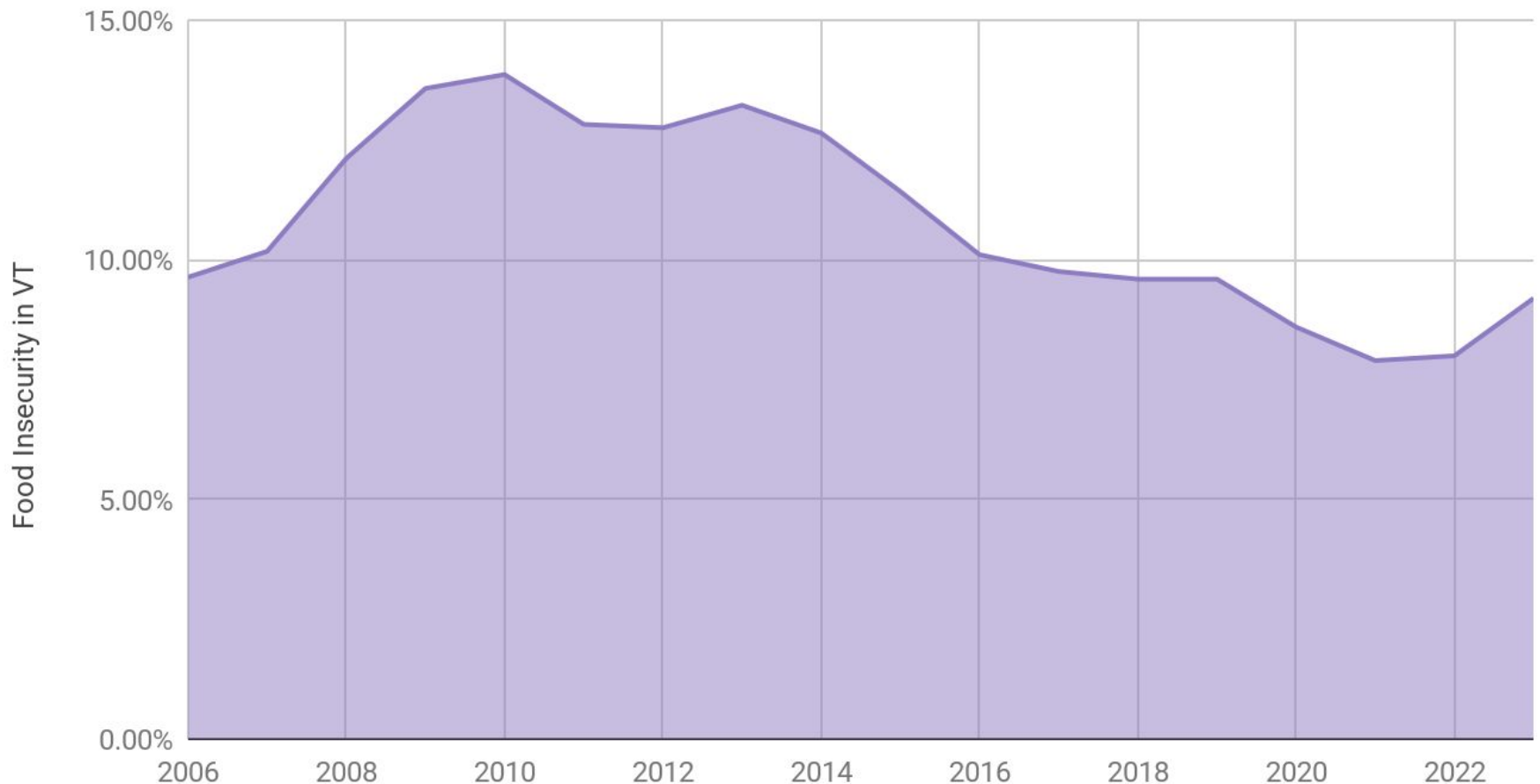


Food Security Data is Complex

- 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

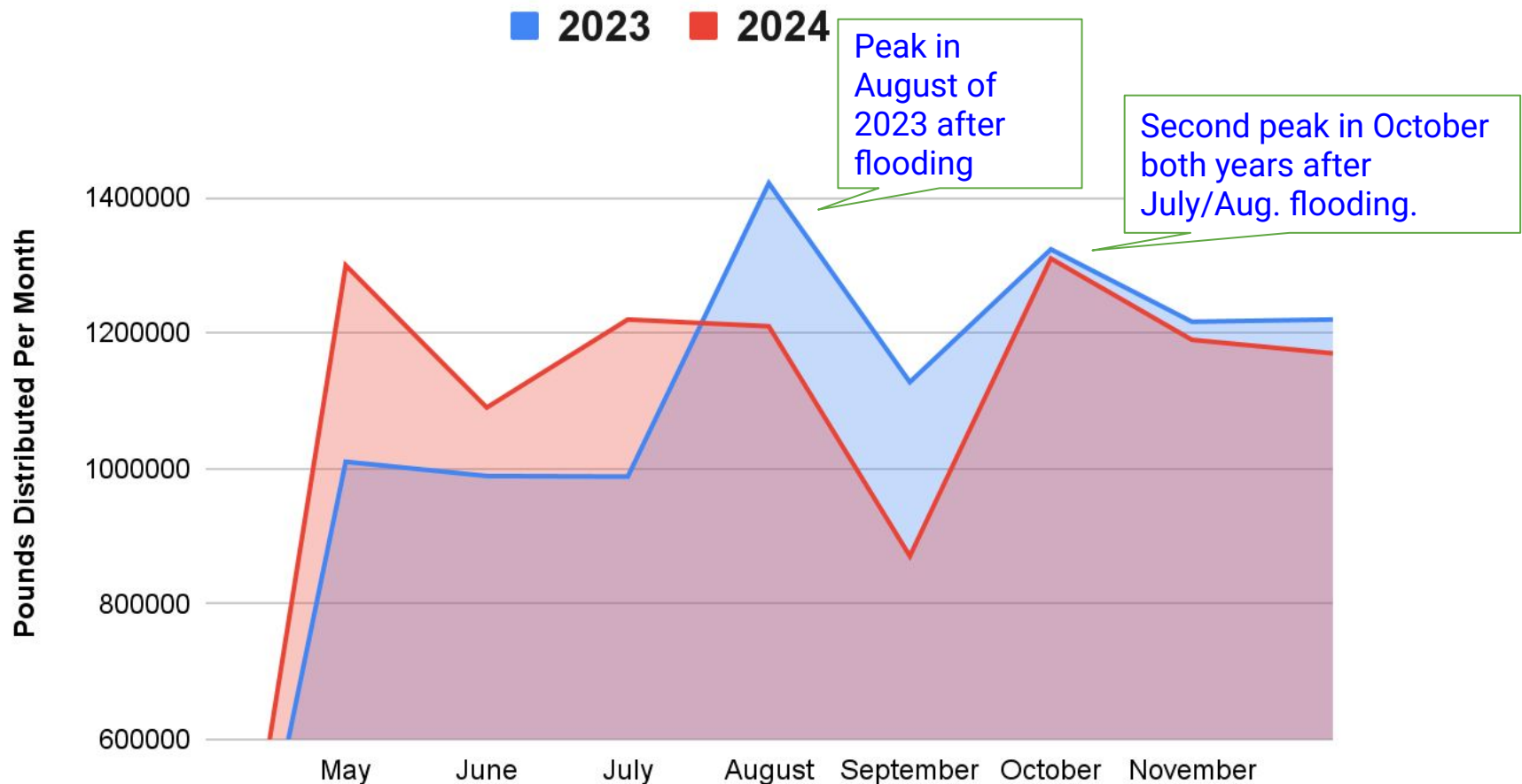
- More food was distributed due to flood impacts. Vermont Foodbank saw a large **increase in food distributed in the month after flood events**.
- It is not just the impact of closed stores, food pantries, and washed out roads. **Housing, job loss, and families supporting additional family members stretches 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:

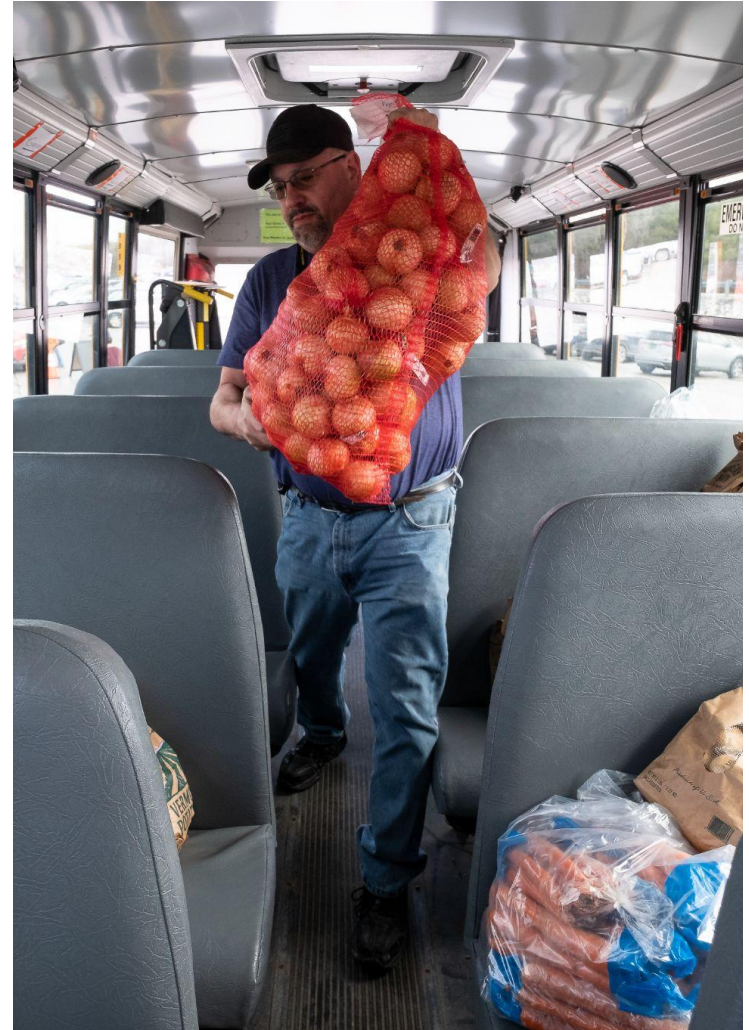
The Vermont Foodbank (VF) is seeking **\$5 million total in FY26 from the State of Vermont:**

- **\$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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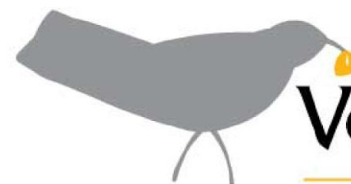
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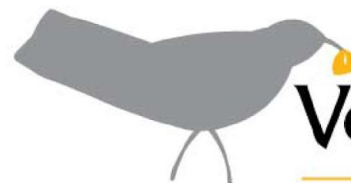
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Vermont Foodbank
vtfoodbank.org

Thank you!

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



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— vtfoodbank.org