

The Honorable Greg Abbott

Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

As we observe Hunger Action Month, we are reminded of our shared responsibility to ensure no child in Texas goes hungry. Yet today, nearly one in four children across our state face food insecurity.

We, the undersigned faith leaders, nonprofit directors, educators, community stakeholders and representatives from the retail and agriculture industries across Texas, write to express our continued interest in the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program and its potential to support over 3.8 million Texas children during the summer months when access to school meals is limited.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this issue and your openness to reconsider Summer EBT funding as stated in your June 22 veto proclamation. We see this as an opportunity to engage in further dialogue and work together to explore a path forward that balances fiscal responsibility with the urgent nutritional needs of Texas families. While the veto statement referenced uncertainty about the future of national food benefit programs—specifically proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other federal funding sources—we now are certain that Summer EBT match rates have remained unchanged.

Without Summer EBT, Texas will continue to miss out on approximately **\$450 million in fully federally funded nutritional assistance per year** for children who lose access to school meals during the summer. These are not abstract numbers—they represent over **3.8 million Texas children** who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch during the school year and are at heightened risk of going hungry during the summer months.

Hungry children do not learn or grow as they should. They suffer higher rates of illness, developmental delays, anxiety, and depression. The long-term social and economic costs of food insecurity—borne by families, schools, health systems, and taxpayers—are well-documented and avoidable. What's more, inflation has driven up the cost of food so high that even middle class families are starting to feel the pinch.

Across the state, local communities and faith-based organizations are working tirelessly to close the gaps—operating food pantries, mobile markets, and feeding ministries. But even the most committed networks of volunteers and donors cannot match the scale and reach of public infrastructure.

Texas is a state built on strength, generosity, and boundless opportunity. With our bold leadership and abundant resources, we believe Texas can lead the nation in ensuring every child receives the nourishment they need to grow and thrive.

We respectfully invite you and your team to meet with us to discuss the realities facing Texas families and the potential for our state to participate in Summer EBT for Summer 2026. A pledge from yourself, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House to reimburse the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for the administrative cost of the program would allow Texas to opt-in. We also recognize that emergency budget transfers have historically been used to address urgent needs outside of Session, and we hope this option might be considered here to ensure every child in Texas has access to food year-round.

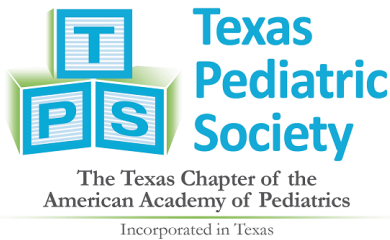
We welcome the opportunity to collaborate and share insights from the field. Together, we can make Texas healthier by ensuring that every child in our state has enough to eat.

Respectfully,



From Sharing Comes Change









CROSSROADS

Strong Families. Changed Communities.



**GRACE
PLACE**



FEED THE NEED



Christian Life
COMMISSION



**METROPOLITAN
HEALTH DISTRICT**



TEXAS FOOD & FUEL
— ASSOCIATION —



**children's
defense fund**
texas



Sealy Christian
PANTRY



Texas YMCA
The Alliance of Texas YMCAs



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
TEXAS ALLIANCE



SERVING HUMANITY TO HONOR GOD



**Caritas
of Austin**

Ending Homelessness Together.



**Jewish Family Service
of Greater Dallas**

An open door to all in need



Statewide Organizations:

AARP Texas
Breaking Bread
Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty
Buckner International
Children at Risk
Children's Defense Fund
EdTrust in Texas
Every Texan
Feeding Texas
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Fellowship Southwest

Instacart
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
RAISE Texas
Share Our Strength
Texas Alliance of Boys and Girls Club
Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA)
Texas Association for School Nutrition
Texas Baptists Christian Life Commission
Texans Care for Children
Texas Farmers Union
Texas Food & Fuel Association
Texas Impact
Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers/CBO
Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Texas Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
TexProtects
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Alliance of YMCAs
Umoja Health
UnidosUS
United Ways of Texas

Local Organizations:

Amigos Del Valle, Inc.
Belly of the Beast
BISHOP Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center Inc.
Blessings of Grace Marion County Food Pantry
Caritas of Austin
Catholic Charities of Dallas Inc.
Central Texas Food Bank
Central Texas Young Farmers Coalition
City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
Colonias Unidas
Community Council of Greater Dallas
Contexto Consulting, LLC
Crossroads Community Services
Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council
Dallas West Church of Christ
East Texas Food Bank
El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank
Faith Commons
Fannin County Community Ministries
Farm and Food Action PAC
Farmshare Austin
Feeding Fannin - Bonham
First Unitarian Church of Dallas
Flourish
Fluff Bake Bar
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley

Mission, TX
Spring, TX
Brownsville, TX
Jefferson, TX
Austin, TX
Dallas, TX
Austin, TX
Austin, TX
San Antonio, TX
Rio Grande City, TX
Dallas, TX
Rio Grande Valley, TX
Dallas, TX
Irving, TX
Dallas, TX
Tyler, TX
El Paso, TX
Dallas, TX
Bonham, Texas
Lampasas, TX
Cedar Creek, TX
Bonham, TX
Dallas, TX
Dallas, TX
Houston, TX
Pharr, TX

Food Pantry, Church of the Advent, Episcopal
For Oak Cliff
Frio County Food Bank
Good Work Austin
Grace Place of Anna
Grayson Grand Central Station
Growing Together Texas
GROW North Texas
HOPE Food pantry
Houston Food Bank
Hopkins County Community Chest
Hungry Souls
Iglesia de Restauracion El Gran Yo Soy
Iglesia Nueva Vida De Cristo
Irving Cares
Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas
Keep Austin Fed
Lake Area Shared Ministries
La Union del Pueblo Entero
Link Health
MaieB Hospitality
Magnol French Baking
Meals on Wheels South Texas
Metrocrest Services
Michael's Cookie Jar
Monte Alto Recreation Center
NCJW Greater Dallas
Neighbors Nourishing Neighbors
Network of Community Ministries
New Braunfels Food Bank
North Texas Food Bank
Oliva family
Our Daily Bread Royse City
Pleasant Grove Food Pantry
Rachel Austin PR
Resource Center
Rock Hill Outreach Center/Bear Necessities
San Angelo Food Bank
San Antonio Food Bank
SCB Food Pantry
Sealy Christian Pantry, Inc.
Sharing Life Community Outreach
St. Bonaventure Food Pantry
St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church
United Help of Waskom
United Way for Greater Austin
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
Unidos Contra La Diabetes
Urban Harvest, Inc.
T2D Concepts, LLC
Tarrant Area Food Bank

Brownsville, TX
Dallas, TX
Pearsall, TX
Austin, TX
Anna, TX
Sherman, TX
Lubbock, TX
Dallas, TX
Nacogdoches, TX
Houston, TX
Sulphur Springs, TX
Austin, TX
Alton, TX
Edinburg, TX
Irving, TX
Dallas, TX
Austin, TX
Quinlan, TX
Rio Grande Valley, TX
Houston, TX
Austin, TX
Houston, TX
Victoria, TX
Dallas, TX
Houston, TX
Monte Alto, TX
Dallas, TX
Prosper, TX
Richardson, TX
New Braunfels, TX
Dallas, TX
Weslaco, TX
Royse City, TX
Dallas, TX
Houston, TX
Dallas, TX
Brownsboro, TX
San Angelo, TX
San Antonio, TX
Frankston, TX
Sealy, TX
Mesquite, TX
Monte Alto, TX
Edinburg, TX
Waskom, TX
Austin, TX
Dallas, TX
Rio Grande Valley, TX
Houston, TX
Dallas, TX
Fort Worth, TX

Texas Health Resources
The Health Collaborative
The Smoke by Chef Reginald Scott
The Storehouse Community Center
Vickery Meadow Neighborhood Alliance
Waxahachie CARE Services
Wilshire Baptist Church
Your Neighbors House

North Texas, Texas
San Antonio, TX
Houston, TX
Plano, Texas
Dallas, TX
Waxahachie, TX
Dallas, TX
Whitesboro, TX