

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Description

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a Federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost.

Through TEFAP, the USDA purchases USDA Foods, including processing and packaging, and makes it available to State Distributing Agencies.

States provide the food to local agencies, usually food banks, which in turn distribute the food to local organizations, such as soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public.

Participation

Households that meet State eligibility criteria may receive food for home use.

States set income standards, which may, at the State's discretion, be met through participation in other existing Federal, State, or local food, health, or welfare programs for which eligibility is based on income.

States can adjust eligibility criteria to ensure that assistance is provided only to those households most in need.

Budget

In FY 2012, \$308.25 million was appropriated for TEFAP through the normal appropriations process - \$260.25 million to purchase food and \$48 million for administrative support for State and local agencies.

In addition to USDA Foods purchased with appropriated funds, TEFAP receives surplus USDA Foods. In FY 2012, \$304.2 million of such foods were made available to TEFAP.

Contact Information

Contact Information

For more information about this program, we suggest that you contact your State Distributing Agency. A list of State contacts may be found on the Food Distribution website at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/contacts/sdacontacts.htm>