

~Bank Notes~

FOOD BANK OF EAST ALABAMA

July 2026



Every meal matters.....rain or shine.

Hurricane season runs through November 30th. Even storms that never earn a name can bring dangerous conditions during the summer and early fall months. When storms strike, hunger does too. Power outages can cause food to spoil, road closures can prevent people from getting to the store safely. Families already struggling financially may find themselves in a difficult position, and insurance prices are likely to increase creating a burden that lasts long after the skies clear.

But storms aren't the only danger we need to look out for. This year, food banks have significantly less food available to distribute than in years past. Each meal costs more to acquire and distribute. The same gas prices that give drivers sticker shock at the pumps make it costly to fuel the Food Bank's trucks that hit the road every morning.

At the same time, prices in the grocery stores are creeping higher. Farmers and manufacturers are paying more for diesel, animal feed and fertilizer, and those inflated costs are passed down to the consumer. It's a financial burden that families already at risk of food insecurity can't afford—and it puts our community in a precarious position.

Our neighbors have always come together to help each other when it matters most, and that generosity has helped the Food Bank to weather difficult times in the past. Without the safety net of food and funding that we've had in the past, the Food Bank is counting on the community more than ever to help us bridge the gap.

TERMINOLOGY

Our words matter, so we use specific language when discussing the food bank and associated people and groups. It is important that everyone is aligned on key terms, such as:

NEIGHBOR A client, guest, or individual at risk of hunger who receives groceries from an agency partner.

Note: Client is a distant and emotionally disconnecting term. We acknowledge that we are part of the same inclusive community – neighbors. “People we serve” or “people who access food and resources through our network” may also be used. When accurate, use “family” or “families” instead of “household” or “households” to emphasize connections and humanity rather than economic or housing status. However, when discussing household food insecurity rates, use “household” instead of “family” as other interpretations are inaccurate.

AGENCY PARTNER A organization or group that provides the food a food bank supplies directly to clients in need in various ways. Every community is different, with many types of pantries and partners.

FOOD BANK An organization (i.e., Food Bank of East Alabama) that collects and safely stores millions of pounds of food that will soon be delivered to local food pantries and soup kitchens (i.e., Agency Partners). Food banks do not typically serve individuals directly, but rather through a network of partners

In addition to some words we recommend, there are also ways we suggest you do not refer to those you serve to help uphold the dignity of people who face hunger.

People are not defined by their hunger status or situation.

Do not use “hungry” or “needy” to describe a person or group of people, as in “hungry people,” “the hungry,” or “the needy.” Instead, use phrases that put people first, like “people facing hunger” or “children in need.”

HUNGER An individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity.

FOOD INSECURITY A household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. This condition is assessed in the food security survey and represented in USDA food security reports.

FOOD SECURITY A situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

FOOD DESERT Geographic areas where residents' access to affordable, healthy food options (especially fresh fruits and vegetables) is restricted or nonexistent due to the absence of grocery stores within convenient traveling distance.

DISCUSSING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

The Food Bank of East Alabama is affiliated with Feeding America. We refer to our agency partners (food pantries, soup kitchens, and other food distribution nonprofit organizations) as Community Partners or Agency Partners. They are the hands and feet of ending hunger in your community. The partnership with our agency partners equips us to better serve our mission throughout the seven counties across east central Alabama we serve. The collective partnership between Feeding America, The Food Bank of East Alabama, and our agency partners maximizes our impact.

*Together, we are bigger, better, stronger,
and more effective than the sum of our parts.*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 [CLOSED] For 4th of July	4 
5	6	7	8	9	10 	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Agency Shopper Orientation @ 8:45 am	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 [CLOSED] For inventory	



Savings Sparkle For Our Agencies!

May 2026

Number of Agencies Shopping:	101
Pounds Distributed:	400,927
Retail Value per FA (\$1.90 per lb.):	\$761,761
Food Bank SMF:	\$21,236
Savings to FBEA Agencies:	\$740,525

Civil Rights Assurance

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, no person shall, the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied, or otherwise subject to discrimination under this program.