



~Bank Notes~

FOOD BANK OF EAST ALABAMA

June 2026

Food insecurity in the U.S. is expected to rise in 2026, driven by SNAP cuts, inflation, and increased demand at food banks.

Current Context and Trends

In 2024, **13.7 percent of U.S. households (18.3 million households)** experienced food insecurity, including **5.4 percent with very low food security**, where eating patterns were disrupted due to insufficient resources (USDA ERS.) Households with children faced higher rates, with **18.4 percent affected**, and over **14 million children** lived in food-insecure households. Disparities persist: **single-mother households (36.8%)**, **Black households (24.4%)**, and **Hispanic households (20.2%)** experienced food insecurity at rates more than double that of White households (10.1%.) Southern states, urban, and rural areas also show higher prevalence.

Projected Challenges in 2026

Food banks and community organizations anticipate **increased demand in 2026** due to continued inflation and tighter eligibility rules for federal food assistance programs. Rising costs and uncertainty in federal food distribution, including potential reductions in USDA support, exacerbate the challenge.

Policy Impacts

The **One Big Beautiful Bill Act** enacted in 2025 cut **\$187 billion from SNAP over 10 years**, fundamentally changing benefit levels and eligibility. These cuts are expected to **increase food insecurity in 2026**, particularly among vulnerable populations such as children, older adults, veterans, and households with disabilities. The termination of the USDA Household Food Security report after 2024 further limits the ability to track and respond to these trends.

Implications

Rising food insecurity in 2026 has **broad social and economic consequences**. Poor nutrition contributes to health problems, increased healthcare costs (estimated at \$50 billion annually), and challenges in military recruitment due to obesity and malnutrition among youth. Families may rely more heavily on food pantries, community programs, and local initiatives to meet basic needs.

Summary

Vulnerable populations—including children, single-parent households, and minority communities—are expected to be disproportionately affected, highlighting the need for targeted policy interventions and community support programs.

Dear Agency Partners,

We are writing to make our agencies aware of a recent change in the documentation requirements for agencies that serve meals or snacks. Up to this point, agencies have been required to complete menus that listed all of the food served at each meal along with the number of people served.

After a careful review of Feeding America guidelines, we are removing the menu requirement from our record-keeping expectations and going forward, our agencies will instead document how many meals were provided each time food was served. **This means that the focus will be on the meals served (“headcount”) and not on the specific food items on the menu.**

Note the Monthly Meal Record example on the following page. You will see that:

- there is a line for every day of the month.
- each day is broken down into breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack.
- agencies will simply write in the number of meals served at each of these daily events and the total meals served that day is written in the righthand column.

The new Monthly Meal Record form can be found on the Food Bank’s website in the Agency Partners section. We can also email a copy to you upon request.

We believe this will be very beneficial for all of us—our agencies will have less of a burden in recording the details of the menus; the Food Bank will be able to put its focus on helping our agencies track their food use in a more manageable way; and we will be more aligned with Feeding America’s requirements.

This new report for agencies serving meals or snacks will begin on June 1st. Feel free to call or email if you have questions or need more information.

PLEASE NOTE: agencies will still be required to track and record temperature logs, maintain pest control, do a monthly inventory of USDA product, follow storage best-practices (food off the floor, away from the wall, etc.); and submit monthly reports by the 10th of each month.



**Food Bank of
East Alabama**

MONTHLY MEAL RECORDS

AGENCY LOCATION: _____



MONTH: _____

YEAR: _____

Date:	Breakfast:	Lunch:	Dinner:	Snack:	Daily Total
1st	4	0	6	5	15
The above shows how to fill out your daily meals. Please be exact! Use the DAILY TOTAL+ MONTHLY TOTALS sections to keep track of your meal totals.					
1st					
2nd					
3rd					
4th					
5th					
6th					
7th					
8th					
9th					
10th					
11th					
12th					
13th					
14th					
15th					
16th					
17th					
18th					
19th					
20th					
21st					
22nd					
23rd					

Continue meal count on 2nd page



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



Savings Bloom For Our Agencies!

April 2026

Number of Agencies Shopping:	119
Pounds Distributed:	494,838
Retail Value per FA (\$1.90 per lb.):	\$940,192
Food Bank SMF:	\$29,068
Savings to FBEA Agencies:	\$911,124

**NOW OPEN
FRIDAYS!**



Food Bank of East Alabama
8am - 11am
Pick up **orders** & **shop**
the **market** area!

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.