

# Food Bank of East Alabama

August 2022



Since 2011, Feeding America has conducted an annual *Map the Meal Gap* study to improve our understanding of food insecurity and food costs at the local level. The most recent release reflects 2020 estimates of food insecurity for the overall population and children at multiple geographic levels, including counties, food bank service areas, congressional districts and states.

For the first time, the study also examines differences in local food insecurity rates by race and ethnicity. Feeding America is committed to addressing persistent racial disparities in food insecurity and these estimates will help fill a gap in understanding local-level inequities. Recognizing that sample sizes are smaller and uncertainty is greater the further these data are disaggregated, we believe that understanding even broad historical variations within and across populations and places is critical. Only then can we develop effective strategies to address the root causes of food insecurity and change the systems, policies and practices that put people at risk of hunger. For more information about the intersection of food insecurity and race/ethnicity, please see our full report <https://map.feedingamerica.org/>



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The large freezer at the Food Bank needs to have some extensive renovation work done in order to make it more functional. Unfortunately, in order to do this work, the freezer will need to be shut down and all of the product temporarily stored off-site. This will likely be a two-week process. While we don't yet have the specific dates determined, we will send this information to all of our agencies well in advance so that you can plan accordingly. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- We will be CLOSED for morning shopping Wednesday, August 3rd but OPEN 1pm-3pm for afternoon shopping
- New Shopper Orientation will be Tuesday, August 16 beginning at 8:45am

What do you do if you did not receive an item on your invoice....or you received the wrong item....or the product you received is bad?

**Who are you going to call?** Crystal Fuller, the Director of Inventory. She can be reached by email at [cfuller@foodbankofeastalabama.com](mailto:cfuller@foodbankofeastalabama.com) or by phone at 334-821-9006.

**When are you going to call?** For missing or incorrect product, call immediately when you return to your agency and are checking off the product as you put it away. For bad or questionable product, contact us immediately so that we can evaluate the product, issue a credit to your agency if appropriate, and check for any remaining product in our inventory.

## LAWS OF LIFE

We all know Murphy's Law: "Jelly roll will always fall jellied side down." However the Laws of Life don't stop there.

**Kauffman's Paradox of the Corporation:** The less important you are to the corporation, the more your tardiness or absence is noticed.

**The Salary Axiom:** The pay raise is just large enough to increase your taxes, and is just small enough to have no effect on your take-home pay.

**Miller's Law of Insurance:** An insurance policy covers everything except what happens.

**Isaac's Strange Rule of Staleness:** Any food that starts out hard will soften when stale. Any food that starts out soft will harden when stale.

**Lampner's Law of Employment:** When leaving work late, you will go unnoticed. When leaving work early, you will meet the boss in the parking lot!

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*"Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person."*

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## BLACK PRODUCE CRATES

*Please remember to return the crates to the Food Bank*

Some of the produce donated to the Food Bank (and made available to our agencies) comes in black plastic crates. Did you know that the Food Bank is responsible for returning these crates to the donors? In fact, future donation of produce is impacted by whether we return these crates! Please remember to fold the crates and return them at your next shopping trip to the Food Bank—and help us keep the donations coming!

## MARKET PLACE SHOPPING

Agency representatives who shop at the Food Bank are familiar with the Market Place shopping area located in the distribution section of the warehouse. This area includes grocery-store style metal shelves, two display glass-front coolers and two upright freezers. When agency shoppers come to the Food Bank, after signing in at the front desk, they are given the opportunity to get a cart and shop the shelves while their cased order is being finalized and loaded.

**What product is available in the Market Place?** Most of the product on the shelves comes from local retail grocery stores or from food drives. It is generally in smaller quantities and is product that is not easily cased out or in sufficient quantity to make into cases.

**What is the primary purpose of this area?** It is to make available a variety of food in smaller quantities. It is not geared to provide the quantities needed by the agencies serving larger numbers of people (like 40 households or more.) We rely on volunteers to stock shelves several days each week, and there is a limited supply of the food for re-stocking. When the food supply gets low, the shelves can be very empty!

**Who selects this product?** On any given day, we have an average of 10 agencies coming to the Food Bank to shop (and some days we have seen as many as 20!) We try to have the product in the Market Place available for **all** of the agencies who come in to shop. When one or two agency shoppers clean off most of the shelves or empty the coolers and freezers for their own agency, the result is that other agencies will not have access to this product. So we encourage the agencies that have larger programs (serving 40 households or more each week) to do their primary shopping by ordering cases from the food list and to not rely on the limited Market Place product.

Please note the following:

Please sign in at the front desk before shopping the Market Place shelves.

Do not **over fill** banana boxes since these boxes will need to be weighed and loaded into your vehicle.

The following items need to be boxed **separately**:

Dry and canned goods

Cooler and freezer product

Produce from the 3 door cooler\*

Bakery product from the Bread Table\*

Baby Food or Formula from the Bargain Table\*

\*The following items have NO shared maintenance fee

**The purpose of the Market Place is so that agencies will have access to a small variety of product. There is a limited supply to restock the shelves. Please keep in mind that this Market Place serves all of our member agencies, and on any given day, there may be twelve or more agencies shopping for their program. Please be mindful when you shop for your agency that there are other agencies also shopping for their program.**

# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 CLOSED for MORNING Shopping	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Agency Orientation 8:45 am	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Closed for INVENTORY			



### Agencies Stretch Their Money at the Food Bank

Number of Agencies Shopping: **110**  
 Pounds Distributed: **423,038**  
 Retail Value per FA (\$1.70 per lb): **\$719,165**  
 Food Bank SMF Cost: **\$26,612**  
 Savings to FBFA Agencies: **\$692,553**



## Check Out These New Items!

189093	Tortillas, Ready to Cook	8 x 26 oz	R	12.00	2.16
188954	Coke Zero, Starlight	24 x 20 oz	D	24.00	4.32
189136	USDA Atlantic Pollock Fillets	20 x 2 lbs	Z	45.00	8.10
189121	USDA Asparagus Canned	24 x 14.5 oz	D	26.00	4.68
189058	USDA Asparagus, Frozen	12 x 2.5 lbs	Z	32.00	5.76
188602	USDA Spinach, Canned	24 x 14 oz	D	23.00	4.14

## Civil Rights Assurance

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, no person shall, on 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.