

\$1 Million Investment in Arizona's Food Banks

Improving Healthy Eating Options for Those in Need



Access to Healthy Foods



Healthy food is an economic and public health issue. Nearly 3 in 4 Arizonans do not get the daily recommended amount of fruits and vegetables. For the more than **1.1 million Arizonans** facing hunger, access to fresh produce and other healthy foods is especially challenging. As a result, the statewide emergency food network has increased its efforts to **distribute more fresh produce** to the **420,000 Arizonans** who access the network each month.

Investing in Food Banks = Triple-Win

1. Enhance the health and nutrition of Arizona's most vulnerable citizens.
2. Enable Arizona's farmers to donate more of their tax-deductible produce through convenient outlets.
3. Rescue nutritious foods that could otherwise go into a landfill.

Distribution of Healthy Foods

Last year, Arizona's emergency food network distributed **more than 178 million pounds** of food—the equivalent of more than **148 million meals**. This included more than **85 million pounds of fresh produce**—a **60 percent increase** from the previous year. In November 2017 alone, the network took in more than **3 million pounds of produce**, which was **12 percent more** than in November 2016.



Capacity to Distribute Healthy Foods



With increased efforts to gather produce, the generosity of Arizona growers, and increased demand from our clients, the network has reached a tipping point: In November 2017, donations outpaced our capacity to transport and distribute perishable goods fast enough. Of the **1,000 partner agencies** statewide, **nearly 200 have minimal capacity to distribute produce** due to limited refrigeration, transportation, or storage. With a **one-time investment of \$1 million**, we can purchase needed capital equipment to serve all 15 counties. We are prioritizing areas of greatest need through a tiered-assessment of agency capacity.

Association of Arizona Food Banks

How We Address Hunger

Since 1984, AAFB has focused on helping healthy people and communities prosper and flourish. We promote public awareness, build coalitions and partnerships, engage in advocacy to influence public policy, and support food banks to achieve a hunger-free Arizona.

Working with Food Banks



By collaborating with our five member food banks and 1,000 partner agencies, shelters, and schools, AAFB distributed 178 million pounds of food to hungry Arizonans across the state in 2016–2017.

Addressing Child Hunger



We partner with districts, schools, and community organizations statewide to help ensure kids get proper nutrition through school breakfast, lunch, and summer meal programs.

Operating the Hunger Hotline



Our 1-800 hunger hotline and online directory help thousands of Arizonans find a food bank near them and access critical nutrition programs.

Advocacy



We work with elected officials at the state and federal level to educate on policy issues that affect hunger and offer policy solutions that help create a healthy, hunger-free Arizona.