



# 2016 Food Bank Facts & Figures

**T**he Rhode Island Community Food Bank distributes food to people in need through a state-wide network of 167 member agencies. These agencies include food pantries, meal sites, shelters, youth programs and senior centers.

Each month, 60,000 struggling Rhode Islanders receive food assistance at these agencies. One in three served is a child under the age of 18, and one in five is over the age of 60.

The Food Bank solicits food donations from the public and from the food industry, including supermarkets, food manufacturers and growers. To keep up with the high demand for food assistance, the Food Bank also purchases food at low cost from wholesalers. Last year, the Food Bank distributed 9.7 million pounds of food.

## Food Insecurity in the U.S.

- 14.0% (17.4 million households) are food insecure
- 5.6% (6.9 million households) report very low food security

## Food Bank Operations

- 9.7 million pounds of food distributed in 2015 (including more than 2 million pounds of fresh produce)
- 60,000 people served each month in Rhode Island
- \$17.1 million annual budget (including donated food valued at \$8.6 million)
- Management and fundraising costs represent only 12% of budget

## Sources of Food

- Food donated by food companies, supermarkets, farms and food drives: 57%
- Food purchased by the Food Bank: 33%
- USDA Federal Commodities: 10%

***The Rhode Island  
Community Food Bank  
serves 60,000 people  
each month.***

## Food Insecurity in Rhode Island

- 12.7% (54,000 households) are food insecure
- 4.7% (20,000 households) report very low food security (hunger)

## Who the Food Bank Serves

- 33% are under the age of 18
- 20% are over the age of 60
- 44% of households have one or more employed adults
- 70% report choosing between paying for food or utilities
- 62% report choosing between paying for food or rent
- 22% have a family member in poor health

## Poverty in Rhode Island

- 14.3% poverty rate
- 146,000 living in poverty
- 20% poverty rate for children under the age of 18
- 42,000 children living in poverty

## Rhode Island Community Food Bank

200 Niantic Avenue  
Providence, RI 02907

Phone: 401-942-6325 | Fax: 401-942-2328 | Website: [rifoedbank.org](http://rifoedbank.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/RICFB](https://www.facebook.com/RICFB) | Twitter: [twitter.com/RIFoodBank](https://twitter.com/RIFoodBank)

## Mission

To improve the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders by advancing solutions to the problem of hunger.

## Vision

We envision a state where no one goes hungry.



## 2016 Food Bank Facts & Figures

### The Scope of the Problem

In every community in Rhode Island, there are individuals and families impacted by hunger. Far too many people still require assistance putting food on the table.

And food insecurity greatly affects some of our most vulnerable citizens. The health of children and senior adults suffers when they have limited access to adequate, nutritious food.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 12.7 percent of Rhode Islanders—54,000 households—are food insecure, meaning they are often unsure where their next meal will come from due to lack of resources. The most severe conditions associated with hunger are reported by 4.7 percent of our state's residents—20,000 households.

### How the Food Bank Helps

Equipped with a 77,000-square-foot facility, a fleet of trucks and a professional staff, the Food Bank safely and efficiently solicits, collects, stores and distributes large quantities of food from many sources. Every week, the Food Bank moves nearly 200,000 pounds of food out its doors to agencies that directly serve Rhode Islanders in need.

### Our Commitment to Healthy Food

The Food Bank is committed to providing nutritious food. Currently, 89 percent of the food distributed is considered “core food” - healthy foods, including vegetables and fruits, grains, protein, beans and dairy, which can be used to prepare a nutritious meal for a family. Of the 9.7 million pounds of food distributed by the Food Bank last year, over 2 million pounds was fresh produce.

### How the Food Bank Operates

The Food Bank is a private, nonprofit organization located in Providence, RI. It is governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, elected annually by the Food Bank's member agencies. The Food Bank is affiliated with Feeding America, the national food bank organization.

The Food Bank is funded primarily by gifts from individuals, corporate donations, foundation grants and shared maintenance fees charged to member agencies. Government funding accounts for only 3 percent of the organization's overall revenue.

### Food Bank Programs

The Food Bank operates several programs which promote long-term solutions to hunger.

#### *Community Kitchen*

Community Kitchen is a culinary job-training program for low-income and unemployed adults. Each class trains students in cooking skills, food safety and the life skills needed to acquire and retain a job. Over 80 percent of students graduating secure employment in the food and hospitality industry within a year or less of graduation.

#### *Community Cooking: Wholesome Eating on a Budget*

Community Cooking is a nutrition education program for clients of member agencies. The Food Bank offers eight-week classes and one-time workshops featuring live cooking demonstrations and practical advice on how to stretch the household budget by preparing healthy foods at home. Over 2,000 people participate in the program each year.

***89 percent of the food distributed by the Food Bank is core, nutritious food.***

#### *Commodity Supplemental Food Program*

Through this federal program, newly available in Rhode Island through the Division of Elderly Affairs, low-income seniors are eligible to receive a box of USDA commodity food each month. Boxes are distributed by the Food Bank at food pantries and senior housing facilities. Information on cooking and nutrition are included in the packages.

#### *Community Farms*

Community farms grow fresh produce for hungry Rhode Islanders while preserving valuable land. Each of the six participating sites is managed by a volunteer coordinator who works with the Food Bank. Throughout the growing season, the volunteer-run farms rely on schools, businesses and civic groups, as well as families and individuals. Last year, community farms contributed more than 55,000 pounds of fresh produce.

#### *School Pantries*

The Food Bank currently supports ten food pantries located throughout the state at local high schools. The sites serve more than 1,000 young people each month, delivering healthy, nutritious food and snacks that students can eat at school or at home. School-based pantries are located on the grounds of the school to provide an easily accessible source of food assistance to low-income students and their families.