

Public Policy Platform



Food Lifeline’s Public Policy Platform is intended to support the organization’s mission work, and specifically, advocacy aimed at root causes of hunger and strengthening the public safety net so that low-income people can feed themselves and their families.

As such, the policy platform addresses federal, state, and municipal hunger-related policies and funding. It prioritizes recommendations where hunger prevention intersects with issues of health, poverty, equity, social justice, food systems, and related government revenue or budget infrastructure.

It will inform policy discussions, provide broad guidance for developing positions on emerging issues, and help frame outreach for building collaboration around issue advocacy. It is the framework from which Food Lifeline’s annual legislative agenda is derived. Accordingly, the platform will be revised from time to time as changes are required.

<p>Hunger Prevention</p> <p>Government nutrition assistance is the first line of defense against hunger, yet current funding levels are not enough to tackle food insecurity alone or keep up with changing needs.</p> <p>Food Lifeline will prioritize measures to protect and increase funding levels, improve access to, and increase program participation for federal and state nutrition assistance programs, like SNAP, TFAP, EFAP, Basic Food, CSFP, FINI, F2FP, WIC, School Meals, and Summer EBT.</p>	<p>Food Systems</p> <p>Consistent access to donated nutritious food depends on a statewide food system that produces in abundance, is sustainable, and encourages food rescue. These aims require an effective policy environment for agriculture, food manufacturing, food businesses, and the like, as well as just and equitable practices for workforces supporting them.</p> <p>Food Lifeline will consider policy measures that improve food systems, incentivize the conditions for food rescue, and build operational capacity for nonprofit, charitable hunger relief.</p>	<p>Hunger and Health</p> <p>Food insecurity negatively impacts health. A counter to this is steady access to nutritious food, which can improve health resulting in lowering the cost of care for low-income people.</p> <p>Food Lifeline will consider measures that positively impact the health of people experiencing hunger by providing nutritious food, promoting nutrition education and healthy eating, including increased utilization of nutrition assistance programs and addressing food insecurity in health care settings.</p>
<p>Poverty</p> <p>Hunger is caused by scarcity and lack – inadequate financial resources, unaffordable or inaccessible healthcare, and lack of stable and affordable housing, under-employment and scarcity of living wage jobs.</p> <p>Food Lifeline will consider policy measures that have a nexus between poverty and hunger, especially around household stability, affordable housing, living wage jobs, and related basic needs.</p>	<p>Equity & Social Justice</p> <p>Hunger is also caused by systemic and social injustice. This and other social determinants of hunger provide opportunities to advance policies that challenge the inequitable and unjust systems that create and perpetuate poverty.</p> <p>Food Lifeline will consider policy measures that address equity & social justice for vulnerable and low-income children, adults and seniors, with emphasis on low-income families of color, immigrant, and under-resourced communities.</p>	<p>Tax, Budget, and Nonprofits</p> <p>Support for nonprofit organizations is conditioned by structures in tax code, regulations, statutes, and municipal ordinances and codes. Tax policy plays a key role in the level of resources available to fight against hunger and can incentive food rescue.</p> <p>Food Lifeline will consider measures that impact the regulatory and tax environment for charitable hunger relief organizations, operationally and through the donation of food and funds to food banks and other nonprofit organizations.</p>

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