

FY23



# PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM



**Food Lifeline’s Public Policy Platform** is designed to support our mission which is to abolish the root causes of hunger and strengthen our public safety net. In our nation hunger, poverty, and racism are intertwined, the success of this mission is dependent on our ability to operate as an anti-racist organization that advances racial equity and social justice.

Our policy platform is a guide for our approach to federal, state, and municipal policies and funding. It prioritizes recommendations informed by people experiencing food insecurity and hunger, where hunger intersects with the major determinants of well-being such as health, race, gender, legal status, food systems, and related government revenue or budget. It will inform policy discussions, provide guidance for developing positions on emerging issues, and frame outreach for building collaboration around issue advocacy. It is the framework from which Food Lifeline’s annual legislative agenda is derived.

### **EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Hunger disproportionately impacts people who experience systemic racial and social injustice. These strong social determinants of hunger indicate clear opportunities to advance policies that remedy the inequitable and unjust systems.

**Food Lifeline will consider policy measures which focus on racial equity & social justice for vulnerable and low-income children, adults, and seniors, with emphasis on families of color, immigrant, and under-resourced communities.**

### **POVERTY**

Hunger is an expression of poverty. Poverty is the disproportionate allocation of resources which creates systemic injustices – inadequate financial resources, unaffordable and inaccessible healthcare and housing, under-employment, and a scarcity of living wage occupations. Ending hunger is inseparably tied to ending the practices and standards that create poverty.

**Food Lifeline will consider policy measures that end conditions of poverty, especially concerning household stability, affordable housing, living wage employment, and related essential needs.**

### **HUNGER, HEALTH, AND WELLBEING**

Steady access to affordable, nutritious, and desired foods both improve people’s health & wellbeing and make for healthier communities to live in. As such, nutrition is an essential complement to healthcare and lowering the cost of healthcare.

**Food Lifeline will consider measures that positively impact the health of people experiencing hunger in community, educational, work, and healthcare settings.**

### **FOOD SYSTEMS**

Consistent, equitable access to nutritious food depends on state, regional, and local food systems producing food that is sustainable, abundant, and responsive to community needs. This requires an effective food policy environment for government, business, and agricultural interests and the workforces supporting them.

**Food Lifeline will consider measures that improve food justice, food systems resiliency, and operational capacity for hunger relief.**

### **NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**

Government nutrition assistance programs are a critical line of defense against hunger, yet current efforts do not always avert food insecurity alone or keep up with changing needs. Because of their scope and broad impact, they must be a top priority for additional funding and innovation.

**Food Lifeline will prioritize measures that seek to fund and improve equity, access, adequacy, and participation across state and federal nutrition assistance resources.**

### **TAX POLICY**

Tax policy plays a key role in the level of economic justice and wellbeing that people experience. It also determines the level of funding available for community investment. As such, it is important to advance tax code that creates the racial and economic justice necessary to end hunger.

**Food Lifeline will consider measures that promote equity and fairness in Washington’s tax code and create more opportunity for community investment.**