

FEEDING FAMILIES. SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS.

STATE INVESTMENT TO STRENGTHEN NORTH DAKOTA'S FOOD SYSTEM.

THE CHALLENGE

More North Dakotans are turning to Great Plains Food Bank and our partner network than ever before for food assistance. Since 2023, the number of individuals served has increased by more than 41,900, with more than 186,366 neighbors receiving food assistance last year alone.

At the same time, federal food resources are shrinking.

Recent reductions to the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the expiration of the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program have significantly reduced the amount of nutritious food available for distribution. These cuts mean fewer pounds of fresh produce, protein, and other healthy foods are reaching families across North Dakota. Without additional investment, Great Plains Food Bank and its network of partner agencies will continue to face growing demand with fewer food resources.

THE OPPORTUNITY

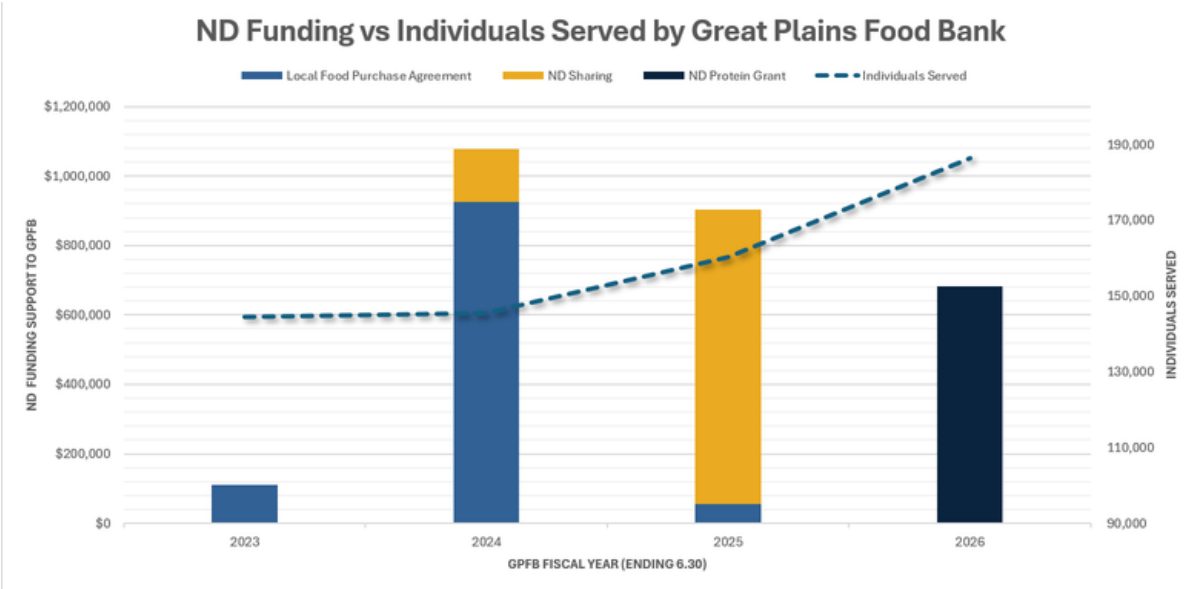
North Dakota has an opportunity to strengthen both hunger relief and agriculture through strategic state investment. By expanding state-supported food purchasing programs, North Dakota can:

- Fill the gap left by declining federal food assistance.
- Purchase more nutritious food grown and raised in North Dakota.
- Support local farmers, ranchers, and food producers.
- Keep food dollars circulating within the state's economy.
- Ensure more families have access to healthy food close to home.

On behalf of our neighbors who struggle with hunger, we ask the State of North Dakota to invest in Feeding Families, Supporting Local Farmers program to fill the gap of lost federal funding and sustain agriculture funding for a total of \$3 million to grow the purchase food program from our local farmers ultimately strengthening the local economy and providing nutritious food to our neighbors facing hunger.



Previous investments by the State of North Dakota have strengthened the charitable food network, supported local farmers, and helped Great Plains Food Bank serve a growing number of neighbors. As the number of North Dakotans seeking food assistance continues to rise and federal food purchasing programs decline, renewing and expanding this investment can create lasting benefits that strengthen communities in every corner of our state.



THE IMPACT



Living on Social Security, Colette faces the same challenges as many older adults across North Dakota. Rising food prices, medical expenses, and household bills leave little room in a fixed budget, and after recently undergoing major surgery, the financial strain became even greater. **"It's getting tough with the bills," Colette said.** Today, groceries from her local Great Plains Food Bank partner pantry help stretch her budget and ensure she has food on the table. **"Pantries fill the gap for me," she shared.** Colette's story is a reminder that hunger can affect anyone.

Guardian Grains, a family-owned 2,200-acre grain farm in central North Dakota, grows French heritage wheat and transforms it into nutritious pasta.



Through LFPA funding, Great Plains Food Bank purchased their pasta for families experiencing hunger across the state. **"The Great Plains Food Bank reaches a lot of families in North Dakota, so it's really exciting for us," said DeAnna Lozensky, co-owner of Guardian Grains.** Lozensky said the partnership will help the company gain visibility across the state.

State investment in local food purchasing helps ensure older adults, families, veterans, and hardworking North Dakotans can access nutritious food close to home while strengthening North Dakota's economy by supporting local businesses and expanding market opportunities for farmers and producers.