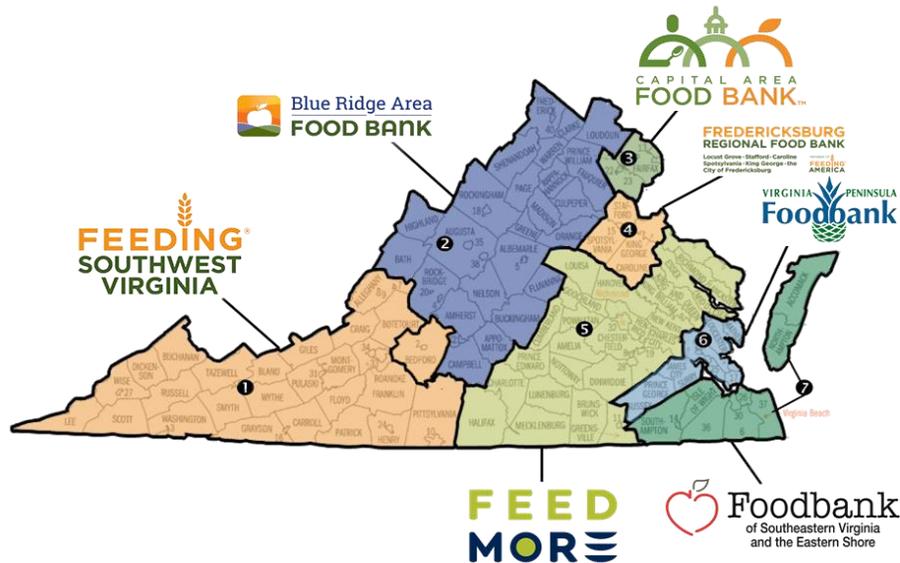




FEDERATION OF
VIRGINIA FOOD BANKS

2021 Impact Report

The Federation of Virginia Food Banks comprises the seven Feeding America food banks serving the Commonwealth. **Together**, we work toward our vision of a **healthier, food secure Virginia** by facilitating statewide collaboration among food banks, partners, and neighbors to improve nutrition security and empower strong, healthy communities.



Collectively, we distributed 165 million pounds of food through 1,500 partner agencies and community distribution sites across every city and county – **40% more than 2019**

How We Help - Leading Through Collective Action

Our work at the Federation starts with the simple premise that **the whole is greater than the sum of its parts**. We can achieve greater outcomes for our neighbors by working together, and when we say “together,” we mean **everyone** – government, businesses, communities, and individuals.

We recognize that hunger in America does not result from a lack of resources, but a lack of will. Through our collective efforts, we are focusing on the initiatives which will most effectively feed families today while ensuring they have the resources they need to thrive into the future.





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COVID-19 Response



The Federation and its members have gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure Virginians are well nourished through the pandemic. In partnership with Sentara Healthcare, Truist, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, we distributed **over 220,000 'We Care' food boxes** in just over a year. Each box provided the equivalent of 15 meals and was designed to be quickly assembled and distributed to vulnerable, low-income households with little to no physical contact. Our members got the boxes out through innova-

tive partnerships including rural libraries, pop-up sites for hospitality workers, mass COVID testing sites, and direct deliveries to quarantined individuals.

Feeding the Future

As schools shut down, then began to open in limited capacities, our food banks sprang into action to close the meal gap. They leveraged new and established relationships with schools to expand the quality and quantity of food available families who no longer had regular access to school meals. Through TANF grant funding secured by the Federation, our members provided **485,000 meals and 1.2 million pounds of produce to families at 190 sites in FY21 alone.**

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore - "The TANF programs, especially during COVID, let us be very creative with who we partnered with to ensure the success of the program. [...] It has had the positive outcome of expanding our partners. Specifically, it has increased our work with a local high school. We have been able to deepen our relationship with them [...] and are seeing the importance of their role in ending hunger."

Boundless Collaboration for Health Equity

Supported by a Boundless Collaboration grant from Feeding America, the Federation and our members worked alongside partner agencies, neighbors, healthcare leaders, and community-based organizations to develop a statewide health equity plan. The work undertaken over the last six months represents an unprecedented degree of collaboration in our field and serves as a shared commitment to ensuring food access strategies are integrated, comprehensive, neighbor-centered, and are contributing toward improved health. Implementation of the plan will occur over the next 3 years and will involve deepening our connection with the healthcare system. We believe that all Virginians have a right to achieve their full health potential and that **together we can achieve truly transformational growth.**



Farms to Food Banks

In 2021, as demand for food assistance remained high and supply chains struggled to keep up, we shattered our records for Virginia-based food purchasing. Bolstered by a \$1 million grant from the state, the Federation sourced **7,600 fresh produce boxes** from 4P Foods in Warrenton, **37,000 pounds of ground beef** from Seven Hills Farm in Lynchburg, **111,000 half-gallons of fresh milk** from Richlands Creamery and Marva Maid Dairy, **205,000 pounds of apples** from Turkey Knob in Timberville, in addition to truckloads of peanut butter and applesauce processed right here in the Commonwealth.

Food banks have a responsibility to contribute to a healthy regional food system, which means



not only rescuing food that would otherwise go to waste, but also using our precious resources to invest in local growers and food businesses. This year, we successfully advocated for the creation of **the Virginia Agriculture Food Assistance Program (VAFAP)**, which will make funds available up front to pay growers for harvest and transportation costs on products donated to the food banks and our partners. VAFAP, along with new Federal 'Farms to Food Banks' grant funding, will allow us to secure more nutritious foods while contributing to the economic vitality of our agriculture industry.

The Roadmap to End Hunger

The Federation works in partnership with government leaders, food access advocates, and our neighbors to advance policies that support nutrition security for all Virginians. Our collective efforts over the past two years resulted in nearly **\$50 million** directed to food access programs and capacity building initiatives. These Federal stimulus funds will help ensure we can meet the demand for assistance throughout the economic recovery and prepare our network to respond to future crises. We also supported legislation and waivers that expanded SNAP (food stamp) and school meal benefits so families can achieve greater financial stability.



The Federation was a lead author of the 'Roadmap to End Hunger,' a set of policy recommendations for combatting food insecurity released by Governor Northam and the Virginia Department of Social Services. You can learn more at www.FeedVA.org.

Thank You to Our Partners:

The Federation of Virginia Food Banks is grateful to our partners for their support this year:





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Member Food Banks



Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

96 Laurel Hl.
Verona, VA 24482
<https://www.brafb.org/>



Capital Area Food Bank

6833 Hill Park Dr.
Lorton, VA 22079
<https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/>



Feed More

1415 Rhoadmiller St.
Richmond, VA 23220
<https://feedmore.org/>



Feeding Southwest Virginia

1025 Electric Rd.
Salem, VA 24153
<https://www.feedingswva.org/>



Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore

800 Tidewater Dr.
Norfolk, VA 23504
<https://foodbankonline.org/>



Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank

3631 Lee Hill Dr.
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
<https://www.fredfood.org/>



Virginia Peninsula Food Bank

2401 Aluminum Ave.
Hampton, VA 23661
<https://hrfoodbank.org/>