

MAY 2022

The Rising Cost of Food is Worsening Hunger in the U.S.

Skyrocketing food prices have made it harder for families facing hunger to access enough to eat and have strained food banks' ability to continue supporting our neighbors in need. **Fortunately, lawmakers can take action to put more food on more tables.**

Costly groceries are spelling disaster for families facing hunger

With skyrocketing food prices, too many of our neighbors are forced to make impossible decisions between paying for groceries and other necessities like rent and medication.



Households that are low-income spend nearly one-third of their budget on food.¹



It costs families 10% more to buy groceries this year.²

In Ohio, the cost of groceries has increased by 12%.

12%

The increase in the cost of meats, fish, poultry and eggs.³

Food banks are not immune from rising food prices

The Feeding America food bank network is not immune from the consequences of rising prices. Every aspect of food bank operations is seeing significant cost spikes, from purchasing food to transporting food.



The cost of a truckload of peanut butter in 2020



The cost of a truckload of peanut butter in 2022

Food banks are paying **40% more** for food purchases to keep up with demand and make up for fewer food donations.⁴

Food banks are moving twice as many truckloads of food now compared to before the pandemic all while...

...TRANSPORTATION COSTS ARE UP

NEARLY **20%**

IN THE LAST YEAR

At the same time, food banks are already facing sustained, unprecedented need for food.

For the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, the demand for food assistance is currently 11% above pre-pandemic levels.