

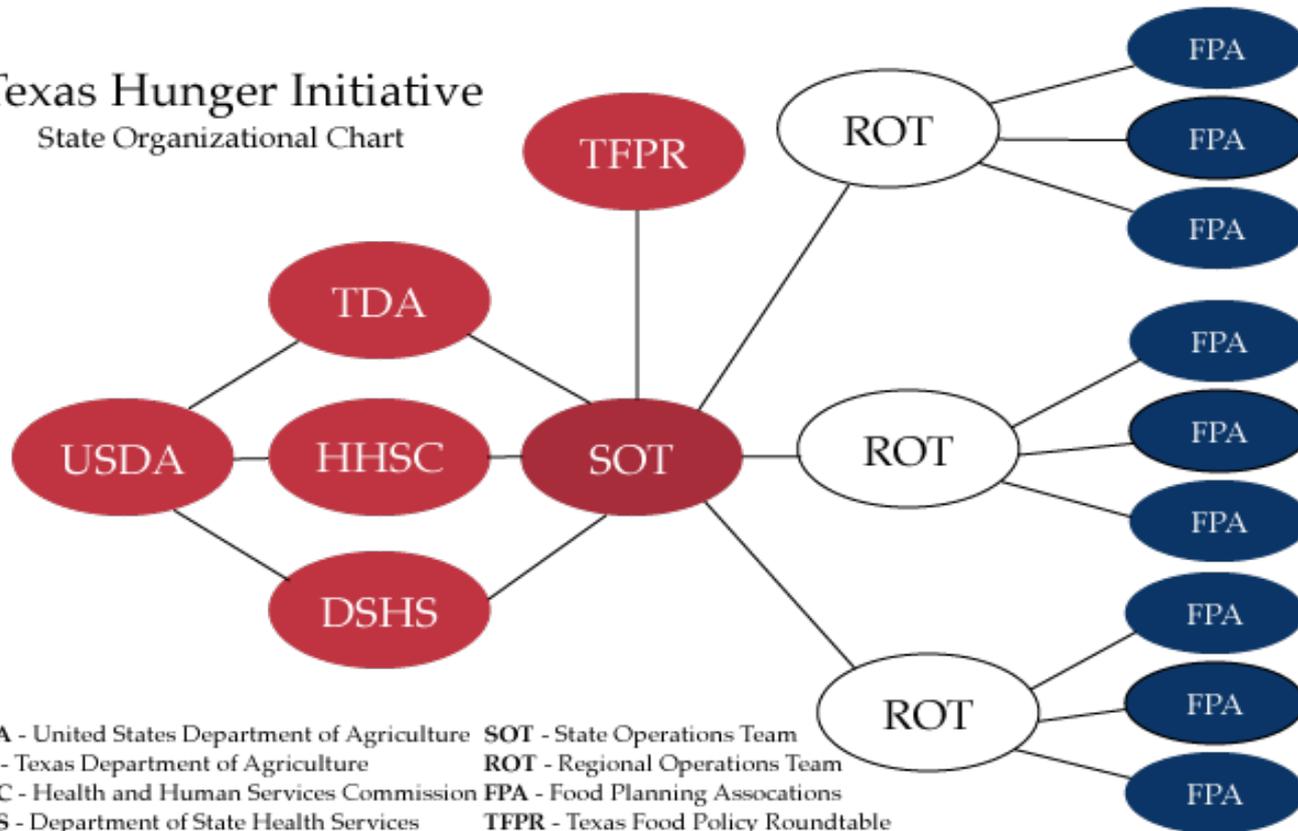


TEXASHUNGER
INITIATIVE

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL *of* SOCIAL WORK

Texas Hunger Initiative

State Organizational Chart



Impact on Healthy Eating

FPA Task Committees work on the following areas to increase access to healthy & affordable foods in their communities:

- Identify food deserts to expand accessibility of healthy foods
- SNAP acceptance at Farmers Markets
- Increase and expand rural, urban, & community gardens
- Promote and expand nutrition education in the community



Hunger in McLennan County

How many are hungry?

Hunger results from an inability to meet nutritional needs with available resources. The USDA measures hunger by asking families whether there was a time in the previous year when they had difficulty meeting their food needs. This measurement is called “food insecurity.”

- 43,120 McLennan County residents (19%) are food insecure.
- On average, these food insecure residents report an annual budget shortfall of \$375 needed to afford “just enough” food – \$16,157,620 in total.
- Many are eligible for federal nutrition programs like SNAP (food stamps), WIC or school meals.*
- However, 44% may earn too much money to receive SNAP, and 32% may be ineligible for most federal nutrition programs.ⁱ

What resources are available?

Another way to measure need compares the food resources of a vulnerable population to a dietary standard. According to USDA, a moderately-priced, nutritious diet for all of McLennan County’s low-income residents (with incomes below 185% of the poverty line) costs \$277,326,420 annually.

- Currently, low-income county residents purchase the bulk of this food with their own money (54%).
- To make ends meet, many then combine their money with a patchwork of resources, the largest of which are SNAP (16%) and School Lunch (3%).
- Even after combining their own money with assistance, these residents face a 23% gap between their resources and the USDA standard, equal to \$62,496,502 annually.
- For many, this resource gap may lead to poor nutrition or food insecurity.ⁱⁱ

What can be done?

No matter how it is measured, hunger represents a disparity between income and expenses. As such, it can be permanently ended only by opportunities to earn and save enough money to meet the cost of living, and the knowledge to spend this money effectively.

In the meantime, existing nutrition programs can be used more effectively to reduce hunger. For example, McLennan County leaves \$48,790,246 in SNAP benefits “on the table” in Washington each year, costing the county \$87,334,540 in potential economic activity.ⁱⁱⁱ

Volunteers, elected officials, nonprofits and the business community should work together to implement the strategies described in the attached report. These strategies will expand the resources available to hungry McLennan County residents, and reduce the gaps that currently exist.

Chart 1 -
43,120 Food Insecure Residents

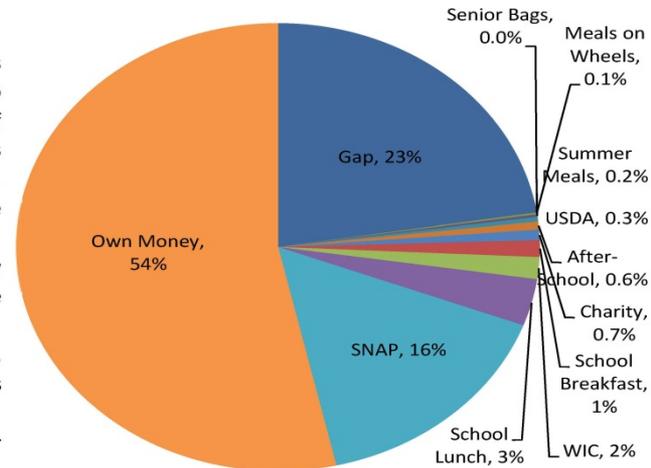
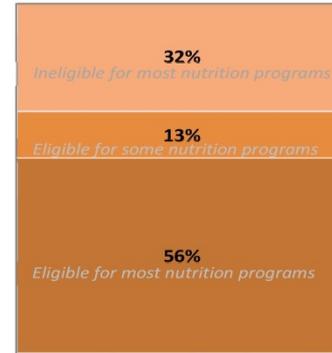


Chart 2 – Low-Income Food Sources & Gap

Ending Hunger in McLennan County: Two Perspectives on Annual Cost

1. Food insecure residents: **43,120**
Cost of “just enough” food: **\$16,157,620**
2. Low-income residents: **97,099**
Cost to cover resource gap: **\$62,496,502**

