

The East Texas Food Bank (ETFB) exists to fight hunger and feed hope in East Texas, and since 1988 we've been pursuing our vision of a hunger-free East Texas. ETFB distributes food to a hunger relief network of more than 200 partner food pantries and feeding programs throughout a 26-county service area.

According to the recent Feeding America study *Map the Meal Gap 2024*, approximately 17% of Harrison County residents, including more than 27% of children, are food-insecure, and at risk of hunger. ETFB serves more than 8,400 low-income households each month through the following programs and initiatives:

Partner Food Pantries are the heart of our hunger relief network. We currently partner with nine pantries in Harrison County, including one pantry in Harleton, one pantry in Karnack, five pantries in Marshall, and two pantries in Waskom.

BackPack Program helps close the “hunger gap” for children who participate in free and reduced-price school meal programs during the week, but are at-risk of hunger on weekends. In the 2023-2024 school year, the BackPack Program served approximately 350 children across one school districts in Harrison County, providing more than 4,200 backpacks.

Summer Food Program provides free meals for children in low-income areas during the summer months. In fiscal year 2024, we operated the program at three sites in Harrison County where we provided more than 8,000 meals and served an estimated 340 children.

Senior Box Program provides boxes of food each month to low-income seniors. ETFB conducts direct distributions at some sites, and works with partner food pantries in other locations, which distribute the boxes to their elderly clients. The program serves more than 150 seniors in Harrison County.

Fresh Produce Program distributes fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income East Texans through partner food pantries and direct distributions. In fiscal year 2024, ETFB distributed more than 930,000 pounds of produce in Harrison County.

Mobile Pantry Program distributes fresh produce and healthy proteins in underserved, high need communities. In fiscal year 2024, ETFB served more than 1,100 households in Harrison County.

Benefits Assistance Program helps eligible East Texans register for social service benefits, primarily through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In fiscal year 2024, we helped 17 Harrison County residents apply for SNAP resulting in more than 16,500 meals for families in need.

Altogether in fiscal year 2024, ETFB provided approximately 31 million meals, including more than 1.4 million meals in Harrison County.

