

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 18% of Marion County residents, including more than 34% of children, are food-insecure, and at risk of hunger. ETFB serves more than 1,100 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 three pantries in Marion County, including one pantry in Avinger and two pantries in Jefferson.

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 120 children through one school district in Marion County, providing more than 3,500 backpacks.

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 approximately 100 seniors in Marion County.

Fresh Produce Program distributes fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income East Texans through partner agencies and direct distributions. In fiscal year 2024, ETFB distributed approximately 216,000 pounds of produce in Marion County.

Mobile Pantry Program distributes fresh produce and healthy proteins in underserved, high need communities. In fiscal year 2024, ETFB served approximately 250 households in Marion County.

Altogether in fiscal year 2024, ETFB provided approximately 31 million meals, including an estimated 300,000 meals in Marion County.

