

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*, more than 16% of Rains County residents, including approximately 23% of children, are food-insecure, and at risk of hunger. ETFB serves more than 1,600 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 two food pantries in Emory in Rains County.

**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 170 children through one school district in Rains County, providing more than 4,600 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 more than 100 seniors in Rains 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 54,000 pounds of produce in Rains 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 approximately 40 Rains County residents apply for SNAP resulting in an estimated 37,000 meals for families in need.

**Altogether in fiscal year 2024, ETFB provided approximately 31 million meals, including an estimated 365,000 meals in Rains County.**

