

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 Upshur County residents, including 25% of children, are food-insecure, and at risk of hunger. ETFB serves more than 3,400 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 five food pantries in Upshur County, including one pantry in Diana, two food pantries in Gilmer, one pantry in Gladewater, and one pantry in Ore City.

**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 100 children through one school district in Upshur County, providing more than 1,600 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 approximately 350 seniors in Upshur 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 approximately 380,000 pounds of produce in Upshur County.

**Mobile Pantry Program** distributes fresh produce and healthy proteins in underserved, high need communities. In fiscal year 2024, ETFB served an estimated 1,300 households in Upshur 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 5 Upshur County residents apply for SNAP resulting in more than 4,800 meals for families in need.

**Nutrition Education Program** provides low-income families with the cooking, nutrition, and food budgeting skills they need to eat healthy on a budget. In fiscal year 2024, 180 Upshur County residents participated in direct nutrition education classes.

**Altogether in fiscal year 2024, ETFB provided approximately 31 million meals, including an estimated 570,000 meals in Upshur County.**

