



Office of
General Services

OGS Food Distribution USDA Foods

An overview of OGS Food Distribution and USDA Foods

OCTOBER 1, 2025

Program Background

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers 16 nutrition programs at the federal level which is then delegated to the state to administer at the state level. A state agency which administers a USDA Food program is identified as State Distributing Agencies (SDA).

The Office of General Services Food Distribution (OGS FD) Program is the State Distributing Agency (SDA) for New York State (NYS) for the following programs:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

What are USDA Foods?

USDA has a dual mission – to nourish people in need and support American agriculture by stabilizing pricing in us agricultural markets.

USDA Foods are purchased by the USDA, from American farmers, dairymen, ranchers, and fishermen and sent to states to support recipients of federal nutrition programs.

USDA Foods are 100% domestic products.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

- TEFAP is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of people with low income by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost.
- States are provided entitlement, a dollar value with which USDA will purchase foods, based on NYS's fair share of the federal TEFAP program.
- NYS has agreements with eight regional food banks to administer TEFAP throughout the state.
- Food banks then distribute USDA Foods to their network of around 2,800 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, etc.

TEFAP Section 32 (Bonus) and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)

- Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935 is a permanent appropriation that provides funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support the farm sector through the purchase of surplus agricultural commodities and other activities. Specifically, it allocates 30% of annual customs receipts to fund these efforts. The funds are used to encourage the export and domestic consumption of agricultural products, and to reestablish farmers' purchasing power. Section 32 is a permanent source of funding, meaning it's not subject to annual appropriations by Congress
- The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is a US government agency that helps support farm income and prices. The CCC also helps maintain a balance of agricultural commodities and distributes them in an orderly way. The use of CCC in TEFAP was discretionary funding.

TEFAP continued

- NYS utilizes the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's (OTDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) county participation to calculate food bank fair share of the state's entitlement.
 - Sum of persons living at or below the poverty level for all counties the food bank services
 - Divided by the total persons living in poverty in NYS
 - Equals the food banks fair share.
- Food banks fair share food based on the average number of persons served by the agency.
- TEFAP USDA Foods (including entitlement, Bonus and CCC) is a supplemental program and only represents 24% of the food in the food bank charitable network in NYS.

TEFAP Eligibility Guidelines



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The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Attestation of Eligibility

Recipient Name:			
Zip Code:		Total Household Members:	

Step 1: Check one of the two boxes below to indicate how you are eligible for TEFAP.

- Categorical:** You are categorically eligible to receive USDA Foods through TEFAP if your household participates in any of the following programs: SNAP, WIC, TANF, Medicaid, or SSI.
- OR -
- Household Income:** If your gross annual household income is at or below 225% of the federal poverty level for the number of people in your household, you are eligible to receive USDA Foods through TEFAP (see appendix A).

Step 2: Check the box below to attest, then sign and date.

- By checking here, you attest that the following is true:**
1. The recipient's name, zip code and household size provided above is correct.
 2. The recipient resides within New York State (there is no minimum length of residency required).
 3. The recipient meets the TEFAP eligibility guidelines in step 1.
 4. This food is for the recipient's home consumption only, and will not be sold, traded, or bartered.
 5. The recipient is aware of their civil rights as described in the USDA Nondiscrimination Statement below.

Signature (Optional)

Date (Required)

This form should remain on site where food is received.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-CDASCR%20F-Complaint-Form-9509-0002-509-11-29-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation.

The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture/Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights/1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Eligibility for Household Distribution

- Each State agency must establish uniform statewide criteria for determining the eligibility of households to receive commodities provided under this part for home consumption ([7 CFR 251.5\(b\)](#))
- NYS uses an Attestation of Eligibility form with Two (2) eligibility guidelines:
 - Categorical eligibility (SNAP, WIC, TANF, Medicaid or SSI)
 - Household Income is at or below 225% of the federal poverty level.

Eligibility for Prepared Meals

There are no federal standards for determining an individual's eligibility to receive prepared meals. They are presumed to be needy because they seek meals at an approved TEFAP site. Sites do not have to maintain records of participants to whom they serve meals but must keep a count of the number of meals served.

How USDA Foods Flow Through TEFAP

NYS distributes entitlement to the food banks based on their fair share percentage.

NYS opens the full catalog to the food banks.

Food banks have discretion to order food based off the needs of their food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, etc.

NYS reviews orders to ensure accuracy and that they meet full truck criteria.

USDA purchases the foods and vendors ship it directly to the food banks.

Food banks distribute the food to their pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

These agencies distribute food to eligible recipients and complete the required paperwork and administrative requirements.

TEFAP Data Considerations

- TEFAP as a base program average cases purchased

Year (Jan -Dec)	Entitlement Purchases	TEFAP Section 32 Bonus	Avg Price per case	Total TEFAP	Total SNAP Receptient	Average number of cases bought with base TEFAP Program
2025	\$ 24,392,440.47	\$ 47,162,040.20	\$25.21	\$71,554,480.67	23,761,480	SNAP data only through August. 2025
2024	\$ 22,866,083.39	\$ 52,176,510.51	\$28.00	\$75,042,593.90	35,500,113	2,680,244.91
2023	\$ 23,098,290.98	\$ 55,798,977.31	\$27.01	\$78,897,268.29	34,626,317	2,921,039.18
2022	\$ 26,375,469.16	\$ 33,118,233.00	\$29.36	\$59,493,702.16	34,296,391	2,026,352.25
2021	\$ 23,081,219.00	\$ 47,621,871.00	\$23.90	\$70,703,090.00	33,452,837	2,958,288.28
2020	\$ 3,697,784.00	\$ 40,154,787.00	\$25.50	\$43,852,571.00	32,425,558	1,719,708.67
2019	\$ 16,034,580.00	\$ 18,922,025.00	\$25.71	\$34,956,605.00	31,524,046	1,359,650.14
2018	\$ 15,806,472.00	\$ 20,936,856.00	\$19.05	\$36,743,328.00	33,194,449	1,928,783.62
2017	\$ 16,646,515.00	\$ 14,424,469.00	\$14.72	\$31,070,984.00	34,604,949	2,110,800.54
2016	\$ 17,538,059.00	\$ 18,088,721.00	\$14.60	\$35,626,780.00	35,476,694	2,440,190.41
2015	\$ 18,006,765.00	\$ 14,378,111.00	\$13.88	\$32,384,876.00	36,236,627	2,333,204.32

*2020 TEFAP Entitlement was allocated with bonus programs during trade mitigation

TEFAP Data Considerations

- TEFAP with additional discretionary programs average cases purchased

Year (Jan -Dec)	Entitlement Purchases	TEFAP Section 32 Bonus	Avg Price per case	Total Base TEFAP \$	Total TEFAP W/ Additional programs \$	Total SNAP Receptient	Average number of cases bought with base TEFAP Program	Avg Total number of case purchased W/additional Appropriation programs
2025	\$ 24,392,440.47	\$ 37,232,796.11		\$61,625,236.58	\$ 69,743,302.17	5,940,370	SNAP data only through Feb. 2025	
2024	\$ 22,866,083.39	\$ 52,176,510.51	\$28.00	\$75,042,593.90	\$ 136,949,878.57	35,500,113	2,680,244.91	4,891,345
2023	\$ 23,098,290.98	\$ 55,798,977.31	\$27.01	\$78,897,268.29	\$ 115,558,620.25	34,626,317	2,921,039.18	4,278,364
2022	\$ 26,375,469.16	\$ 33,118,233.00	\$29.36	\$59,493,702.16	\$ 83,959,702.53	34,296,391	2,026,352.25	2,859,663
2021	\$ 23,081,219.00	\$ 47,621,871.00	\$23.90	\$70,703,090.00	\$ 111,869,932.00	33,452,837	2,958,288.28	4,680,750
2020	\$ 3,697,784.00	\$ 40,154,787.00	\$25.50	\$43,852,571.00	\$ 127,674,003.00	32,425,558	1,719,708.67	5,006,824
2019	\$ 16,034,580.00	\$ 18,922,025.00	\$25.71	\$34,956,605.00	\$ 88,606,752.00	31,524,046	1,359,650.14	3,446,393
2018	\$ 15,806,472.00	\$ 20,936,856.00	\$19.05	\$36,743,328.00	\$ 37,766,696.00	33,194,449	1,928,783.62	1,982,504
2017	\$ 16,646,515.00	\$ 14,424,469.00	\$14.72	\$31,070,984.00	\$ 31,070,984.00	34,604,949	2,110,800.54	2,110,801
2016	\$ 17,538,059.00	\$ 18,088,721.00	\$14.60	\$35,626,780.00	\$ 35,626,780.00	35,476,694	2,440,190.41	2,440,190
2015	\$ 18,006,765.00	\$ 14,378,111.00	\$13.88	\$32,384,876.00	\$ 32,384,876.00	36,236,627	2,333,204.32	2,333,204

*2020 TEFAP Entitlement was allocated with bonus programs during trade mitigation

TEFAP Data with additional discretionary programs

Year (Jan –Dec)	Updated Entitlement	Entitlement Purchases	TEFAP Section 32 Bonus	Other Bonus Programs (Trade Mitigation, CARES, FFCRA, COSUP, BBB)	CCC	Total TEFAP FOOD \$	Total SNAP Recipient	NYS total % of TEFAP (60% poverty index 40% unemployment)	*Avg \$ per snap recipients	Avg Total number of case purchased	Avg Price per case	Notes
2025	\$ 24,215,776.00	\$ 24,392,440.47	\$ 47,162,040.20	\$ -	\$ 8,118,065.59	\$ 79,672,546.26	23,761,480	6.4694%	\$1.02		\$25.21	SNAP data only through August. 2025
2024	\$ 23,735,856.92	\$ 22,866,083.39	\$ 52,176,510.51	\$ -	\$ 61,907,284.67	\$ 136,949,878.57	35,500,113	6.4792%	\$0.67	4,891,345	\$28.00	
2023	\$ 23,274,908.00	\$ 23,098,290.98	\$ 55,798,977.31	\$ 885,505.88	\$ 35,775,846.08	\$ 115,558,620.25	34,626,317	6.5173%	\$0.67	4,278,364	\$27.01	
2022	\$ 26,907,282.00	\$ 26,375,469.16	\$ 33,118,233.00	\$ 24,466,000.37	\$ -	\$ 83,959,702.53	34,296,391	6.7781%	\$0.78	2,859,663	\$29.36	
2021	\$ 28,594,258.00	\$ 23,081,219.00	\$ 47,621,871.00	\$ 41,166,842.00	\$ -	\$ 111,869,932.00	33,452,837	6.3558%	\$0.85	4,680,750	\$23.90	
2020	\$ 15,325,457.00	\$ 3,697,784.00	\$ 40,154,787.00	\$ 83,821,432.00	\$ -	\$ 127,674,003.00	32,425,558	5.9938%	\$0.47	5,006,824	\$25.50	
2019	\$ 16,484,873.00	\$ 16,034,580.00	\$ 18,922,025.00	\$ 53,650,147.00	\$ -	\$ 88,606,752.00	31,524,046	6.3393%	\$0.52	3,446,393	\$25.71	
2018	\$ 15,874,741.00	\$ 15,806,472.00	\$ 20,936,856.00	\$ 1,023,368.00	\$ -	\$ 37,766,696.00	33,194,449	6.0615%	\$0.48	1,982,504	\$19.05	
2017	\$ 17,346,434.00	\$ 16,646,515.00	\$ 14,424,469.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,070,984.00	34,604,949	6.0795%	\$0.50	2,110,801	\$14.72	
2016	\$ 17,594,489.00	\$ 17,538,059.00	\$ 18,088,721.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,626,780.00	35,476,694	6.1589%	\$0.50	2,440,190	\$14.60	
2015	\$ 18,067,546.00	\$ 18,006,765.00	\$ 14,378,111.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,384,876.00	36,236,627	6.1736%	\$0.50	2,333,204	\$13.88	

*2025 Data incomplete based on reporting. Section 32 Bonus (continues through year), Total SNAP(January-August),



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