



FEED.

ADVOCATE.



EMPOWER.



Case for Support

Serving the 10 Coastal Counties of South Carolina

40 Years of Serving the Lowcountry

As a member of the national Feeding America network, Lowcountry Food Bank (LCFB) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to uniting our community in pursuit of equitable, dignified, and consistent access to food.

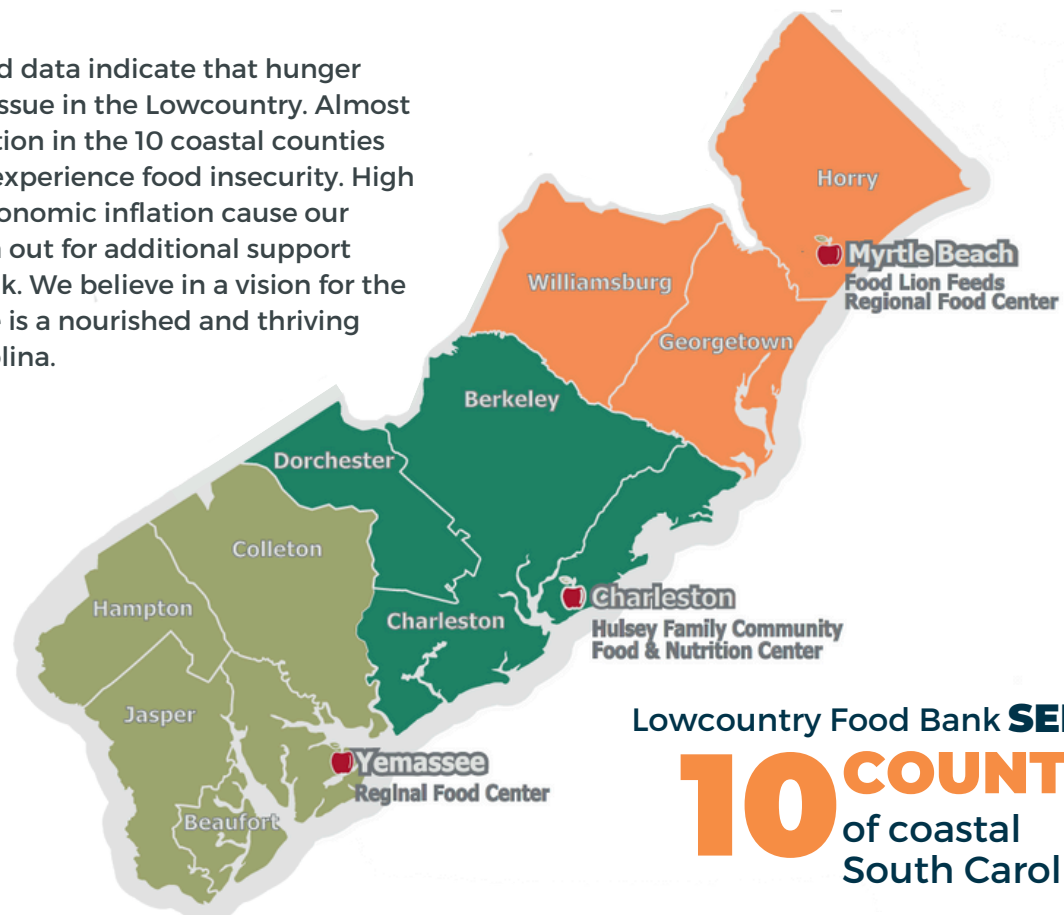
Founded in 1983 by Trident United Way and Coastal Community Foundation, LCFB was created to address the community health issue of hunger, which we now understand more broadly as food insecurity. This means ensuring consistent access to healthy food, by everyone in a family, to lead healthy and active lives.

We partner with more than 230 partner agencies - faith-based organizations, schools, community organizations and non-profits to execute a myriad of nutrition programs, especially for children and seniors. Our efforts provide nutrition education experiences and an engaged support system for people who face food insecurity. LCFB will continue to build pathways to long-term food security and cultivate resources to help our neighbors reach self-sufficiency.



Food Insecurity Remains High in the Lowcountry

Our experience and data indicate that hunger remains a serious issue in the Lowcountry. Almost 10% of the population in the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina experience food insecurity. High food prices and economic inflation cause our neighbors to reach out for additional support from the Food Bank. We believe in a vision for the future where there is a nourished and thriving coastal South Carolina.



Lowcountry Food Bank **SERVES**
10 COUNTIES
of coastal
South Carolina

Strategic Planning Helps Meet Unique Needs

LCFB's Strategic Framework aligns our goals and strategies with those of the national Feeding America network, and we focus on meeting the ever-changing needs of our own coastal South Carolina community.

We have dedicated time to develop a strategic framework that articulates our vision for the people we serve to realize a nourished and thriving future. We collaborate with our partners to advance healthy communities and listen to the voices of those with lived experience and expertise to help shape our future strategy. We strive to address many of the root causes of food insecurity and barriers to equitable food access. We prioritize our goals based on the needs of our neighbors who experience food insecurity.



UNDERSTANDING OUR ORGANIZATION

Feed.



Food For Today

We provide equitable access to nutritious food. We work with our partner agencies to expand food access points and even greater availability to meet our neighbors' needs. LCFB facilitates direct-to-client food distributions throughout the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina through mobile food distributions that offer a variety of fresh produce.

Advocate.



Engaging Our Neighbors and Community

We aim to increase awareness of hunger issues, amplify the voices of our neighbors, and advocate for policies that address barriers to food access. We work to inspire community engagement and action to positively affect hunger issues.

Empower.



Investing in the Future of our Community

We invest in the future of our communities and cultivate partnerships to advance partner capacity to serve our neighbors. We help advance healthy communities and further build resilient food systems so our neighbors can live their healthiest lives.

Organizational Excellence

We strive for organizational excellence to create diverse revenue streams, continue to advance the engagement of our staff and volunteers, optimize our technological systems and share disaster preparedness and response capacity with our partners.

SERVING THE 10 COASTAL COUNTIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA



LCFB serves more than 200,000 individuals every year.



More than 89% of the food provided to neighbors is distributed by our partner agencies.



40% of which is fresh produce from our retail partners.



96% of our charitable dollars are spent on direct programs and services.

HOW DO WE WORK?

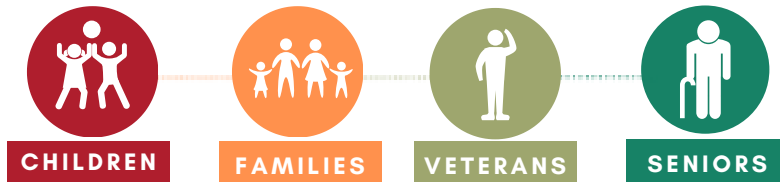
FOOD SOURCES AND FUNDS



COLLECTED & SORTED



DISTRIBUTED TO



DEMONSTRATING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

LCFB distributes food to people who experience food insecurity throughout the 9,000 square miles of our coastal South Carolina service territory. With a fleet of more than 15 refrigerated trucks, distributing nutritious food is our priority. We are proud of our AIB International certification, which demonstrates our commitment to food safety and high food quality standards. Additionally, we recapture millions of pounds of excess food from our retail partners to distribute to our community, which would have otherwise gone to waste.

FEED.

Hunger
deprives our
children of
more than
just food.

Fighting Childhood Hunger in the Lowcountry

In the Lowcountry, one in five children does not know where their next meal will come from. No child should have to worry about when they will eat again, and no parent should have to skip a meal, water down drinks or risk not paying a bill so they can put food on the table for their family.

Research shows that children with regular access to nutritious food have higher grades and test scores, as well as better attendance and improved behavior in school. To fight childhood hunger, we administer food programs to vulnerable communities to meet children where they are - pantries at their schools, meals to take home on weekends and school breaks, hot foods at afterschool care, and breakfast and lunch at summer camps. We administer targeted programs to alleviate child hunger in our communities that are most at-risk.

Senior Hunger Continues to Grow

Nationally, the food insecurity rate among seniors is 7.1%, which means that 5.2 million individuals aged 60 and older face hunger. The need for senior hunger relief is particularly acute in South Carolina where 8.5% of our neighbors seeking food assistance are age 60 or older.

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity because many live on fixed incomes and may be faced with extraordinary healthcare costs. Programs with partners like East Cooper Meals on Wheels, Charleston Area Senior Center, Summerville Meals on Wheels, Help of Beaufort, and First Scots Presbyterian Church deliver nutritious food to seniors where they are - in their homes, at senior housing, and community and recreation centers.

Preparing
nutritious
meals for
seniors is
essential.

“

The number of seniors facing hunger in this country remains unacceptably high. After lifetimes of hard work, many of America's seniors are put in the terrible position of having to choose between groceries and medical care.

”





ADVOCATE.

LCFB advocates on behalf of those who experience hunger by taking the lead in increasing awareness about hunger and educating our community about the social and policy issues that surround food insecurity.

Hunger is a national crisis, though it is often hidden. LCFB aligns with Feeding America's advocacy efforts to support federal tax policies and agricultural and nutrition programs.

Through our combined voice, we bring greater awareness to the importance of a future where there is a nourished and thriving coastal South Carolina.

Equitable Nutrition All Around

We see dramatic differences in food insecurity based on where people live. Ensuring equitable food distribution requires insight into common barriers to food access, including economic and social factors such as a lack of transportation and the stigma associated with seeking food assistance.

LCFB is focused on creating strategies to accomplish the equitable distribution of food, which include increasing food access, investing in core partnerships and resources to support our mission, and engaging in the communities we serve.

Ensuring equitable access requires LCFB to focus on the most vulnerable populations in the counties we serve, especially in rural areas, and to tailor solutions to address our communities' needs by listening and addressing our neighbors' unique concerns.



Getting Through the Storm

As a designated first-response organization, LCFB provides help and support to our community, following natural disasters, and in emergency situations, such as during the global Covid pandemic. When disaster hits, LCFB collects and distributes food, water and supplies to impacted areas. We work behind the scenes with dozens of disaster relief organizations and community partners to help our neighbors get through the storm.



EMPOWER.

Produce Distributions Provide Healthy Choices

Food-insecure individuals must rely on easily accessible food options and often have higher rates of diet-related diseases - like diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Our food distributions promote healthy, nutritious food choices by providing a wide variety of fresh produce.

Client choice, farmers' market-style produce distributions enable us to serve people in rural and high-need areas where food access may be limited. These distributions empower people to choose the foods they want to take home to their families.

Serving Our Community with Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

LFCB's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) journey began in 2019. We have led and participated in EDI trainings and workshops to expand our EDI knowledge for our staff, our Board of Directors, our Partner Agencies, and the neighbors we serve.

Our internal EDI Advisory Committee has used an equity lens to provide EDI learning opportunities for staff. We have reviewed staff demographic data to develop long-term diversity goals, and we are assessing how we can better engage with our Partner Agencies and neighbors from an EDI perspective. We continue to look to our neighbors for their guidance and feedback in our work.

**Nutrition Education
fights hunger by
serving with dignity.**

LCFB Nutrition Education programs ensure that our food-insecure neighbors learn the skills they need to select and prepare healthy meals and snacks. LCFB partners with community organizations that provide support services, including medical care, financial literacy and counseling. This collaborative approach ensures we are empowering our community with the skills and resources they need to break the cycle of hunger and poor health.





Lowcountry Food Bank Foundation Provides Long-Term Financial Support

The Lowcountry Food Bank Foundation was established in 2021 to provide a consistent and sustainable source of funding to support Lowcountry Food Bank.

The Foundation manages and invests monetary gifts, which continue to grow, and provides a dependable source of annual income to help fund feeding programs, projects, equipment, and infrastructure for Lowcountry Food Bank. The Foundation helps ensure that our food-insecure neighbors in the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina have access to food assistance both now and in the future.



Make a difference for people who need it most!

HELP END Child Hunger

When school is out, millions of children can no longer rely on free or reduced-price meal programs to get the nutrition they need.

You can help the children in our community by making a gift!

STAND AGAINST Senior Hunger

The Food Bank recognizes the need of many seniors in our community. Because seniors often live on fixed incomes and may be faced with healthcare costs beyond what Medicare covers, purchasing adequate food can be challenging.

You can make a difference in a senior's life!

VOLUNTEER Your Time

Lowcountry Food Bank cannot meet the need for meals across our community without the help of more than 50,000 hours of volunteering every year.

Donate your time and make a big impact!



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

Serving the 10 Coastal Counties of South Carolina
lowcountryfoodbank.org | 843-747-8146

