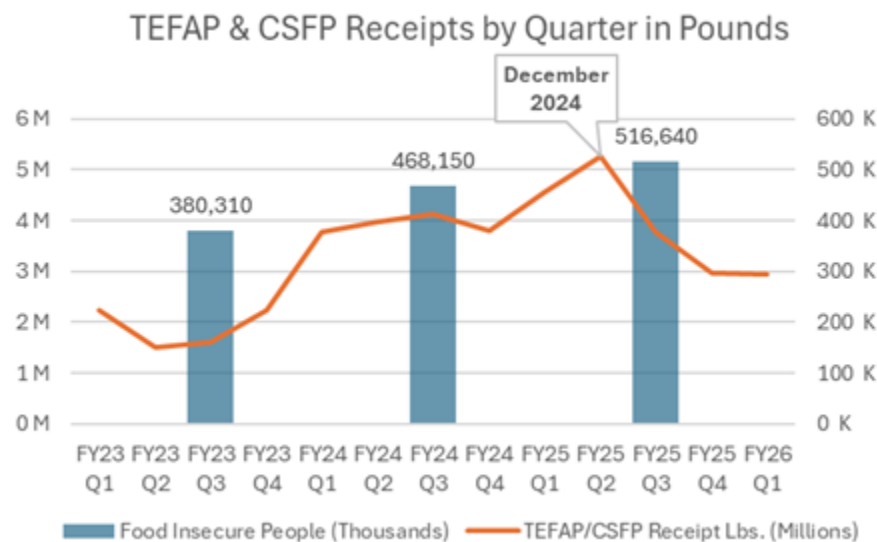


Connecticut Foodshare Public Policy Agenda: 2026

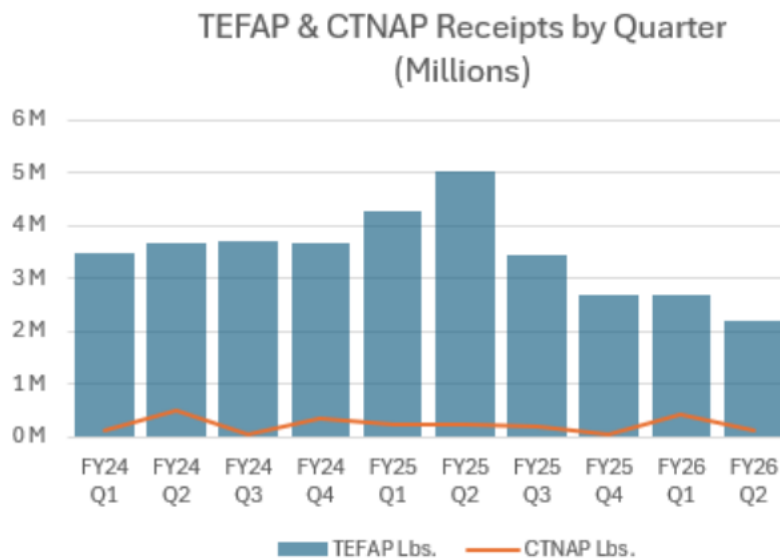
Connecticut Foodshare has seen steadily declining support from the federal government over the past year- culminating in **50% less federal commodities available overall** in Q1 of this fiscal year alone compared to the same period last year. We also project a drop from 94 federal TEFAP loads received in January-March 2025 to 26 loads in January-March 2026. **A 72% decrease.** Despite the increased funding to CTNAP (\$3 million in FY26 and \$6 million in FY27), this program will need more sustained funding to make up for the lost federal support. Paired with continuously rising food insecurity rates and additional cuts to SNAP due to HR1 we are facing the makings of a crisis that can only be mitigated through the combination of a stable charitable food system and state level direct assistance to our neighbors.



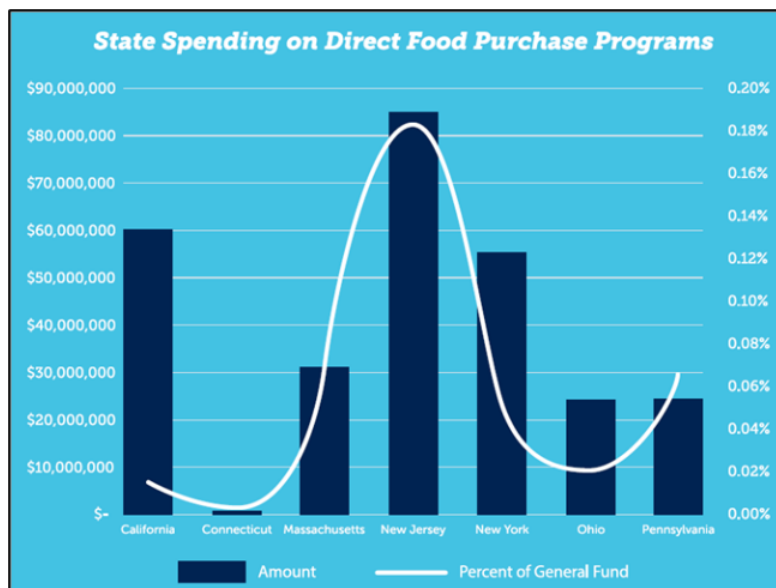
Priority #1: Stabilize the charitable food system to ensure it can continue to be a reliable community resource for our neighbors.

- Increase funding to CTNAP to \$20 million annually to increase the availability of nutritious, culturally connected food for neighbors across the state, ensuring there is a stable, predictable source of food available in a rapidly evolving environment. This will allow Connecticut Foodshare to:
 - Strategically increase the number of agency partners and Mobile pantry locations statewide based on key data and analysis, while also bolstering the amount of food available to Connecticut Foodshare's existing partner network
 - Ensure more food is purchased locally from Connecticut farmers
- Begin issuance of established \$10 million bond fund allocated for grants in aid to food organizations for capital improvements:

- Obligate \$4 million in bond funds to support expansion of Connecticut Foodshare's Wallingford headquarters to source, store and distribute more food including fresh and frozen protein, produce and dairy, and serve more partners.
- Obligate bond funds for community food pantries and meal programs to support home delivery efforts, increased storage for fresh food, and other capacity building efforts.



CTNAP continues to be underfunded compared to neighboring states. Increasing funding to this program will help to ensure that we are not only filling the gap left by the federal government, but that we are increasing the amount and variety of food available for our neighbors.



Priority #2: Strengthen SNAP and other direct cash assistance programs to ensure benefits are sufficient, and accessible for neighbors.

- Increase funding and explore programmatic adjustments to [SAGA Cash](#) and other existing programs to support individuals impacted by federal SNAP changes.
- Fund SNAP doubling for eligible households; prioritizing children and seniors
- Pilot transportation credits for SNAP and cash assistance recipients to improve food access in harder to reach areas.
- Explore opportunities to expand support for application assistance, streamlining and accessibility.

Priority #3: Provide comprehensive, accurate reporting on the state of food insecurity in Connecticut to support data informed decision making.

- Work with Connecticut Foodshare, state agencies and commissions to establish criteria and goals for annual food insecurity and impact report.
- Provide adequate resources for the development of an annual statewide comprehensive food insecurity report.

Connecticut Foodshare will also lend its voice in support of policies and programs that address food insecurity, food access and stability for the people we serve, which aim to strengthen our local food system.