



## **Mobile Pantry Program Summary**

The East Texas Food Bank (ETFB) requests a grant of \$5,000 from Texas Rural Communities, Inc. to support the Mobile Pantry Program, which provides nutritious food to low-income East Texans in underserved, rural communities. According to the recent study *Map the Meal Gap 2016* (conducted by Feeding America, the national food bank network), more than one in five East Texans, including more than one in four children, is at risk of hunger. Although ETFB distributes food to more than 200 partner agencies and programs throughout 26 East Texas counties, there are many isolated communities within this predominantly rural region where there are little or no emergency food resources.

ETFB's Mobile Pantry Program is designed to close the rural "hunger gaps" in East Texas by providing targeted food assistance to low-income client households in underserved, rural communities. Each month, ETFB sends a refrigerated truck filled with nutritious food into select rural communities, and directly distributes boxes of food to participating families. This includes food pantry staples such as peanut butter, soup, rice, and beans, as well as fresh produce and bakery items. ETFB partners with a church or other local organization, which provides a host site and volunteers to help distribute the food.

ETFB currently operates the Mobile Pantry Program in nine rural East Texas communities, including: Carthage, Douglass, Elkhart, Etoile, Grapeland, Hughes Springs, Marshall, Overton, and Waskom. Altogether, we serve an estimated 765 client households each month, which includes more than 1,600 individuals.

The long-term goal of the program is to facilitate the creation of permanent food pantries in the communities where the program operates, which will then become a part of ETFB's partner agency network. Since the Mobile Pantry Program was launched in November 2011, nine program sites transitioned into independent food pantries.

Although ETFB partners with many food pantries and feeding programs throughout East Texas, the Mobile Pantry Program is the only large-scale mobile food distribution program provided targeted food assistance in rural communities. It allows ETFB to get out onto the "front lines" in the fight against hunger.

Expected outcomes for the Mobile Pantry Program include: increased access to emergency food assistance in underserved, rural communities; reduced hunger among low-income, food-insecure households; increased awareness of hunger in target communities; and the creation of new independent food pantries in underserved, rural communities.

**East Texas Food Bank Grant Application  
Mobile Pantry Program**

**Section I: Contact Information**

**a. Name, Mailing Address, Telephone Number and e-mail of Contact person for grant**

Jennifer Yoder  
3201 Robertson Road  
Tyler, TX 75701  
903-597-3663  
jyoder@easttexasfoodbank.org

**b. Name and Address of Organization**

East Texas Food Bank  
3201 Robertson Road  
Tyler, TX 75701

**c. Tax ID**

75-2222686

**Section II: Organizational Description**

**a. Give a brief overview of your organization, including its mission, purpose, a short history and any major accomplishments.**

The East Texas Food Bank (ETFB) exists to fight hunger and feed hope in East Texas, and since 1988, we have been pursuing our vision of a hunger-free East Texas. Headquartered in Tyler, TX, ETFB serves as a regional clearinghouse for donated and purchased food, which we collect from retail supermarkets, food distributors, manufacturers, farmers, wholesalers, restaurants, individuals, and through food drives. ETFB then distributes the food to more than 200 partner agencies and programs, located throughout a predominantly rural, 26-county service area, which spans nearly 20,000 square miles. These food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters and other nonprofits then serve the food at no cost to those in need. ETFB provides emergency food assistance to an estimated 252,900 people each year through this hunger relief network. ETFB also operates a number of other successful anti-hunger programs, including targeted child hunger programs, such as the Backpack Program, Summer Food Program, Kids Cafe and Afterschool Snack Program; Senior Box Program; Mobile Pantry Program; Nutrition Education Program; Fresh Produce Program; and SNAP Outreach Program. Altogether in fiscal year 2016, ETFB provided more than 21.8 million meals across East Texas. ETFB is a member of Feeding America, the national food bank network, and Feeding Texas, a statewide network of food banks in Texas.

**Section III: Program Description**

**a. What community and/or constituency needs will your program meet?**

Hunger is a pervasive reality in East Texas. According to the recent study *Map the Meal Gap 2016*, which was conducted by Feeding America, more than 1 in 5 East Texans, including more than 1 in 4 East Texas children is considered food-insecure, and at risk of hunger. Although ETFB distributes food to more than 200 partner agencies and programs throughout East Texas, there are many isolated communities within this predominantly rural region where there are little or no emergency food resources, such as food pantries. ETFB launched the Mobile Pantry Program to help address the “hunger gaps” in rural areas. Through this program, ETFB directly distributes boxes of food each month to low-income, food-insecure households in some of the most underserved, rural communities in East Texas.

**b. Give a brief description of your program. What are its primary goals? How will you accomplish them?**

ETFB’s Mobile Pantry Program is designed to close the rural “hunger gaps” in East Texas by providing targeted food assistance in underserved, rural communities. Each month, ETFB sends a refrigerated truck filled with nutritious food into select rural communities, and directly distributes boxes of food to participating families. This includes food pantry staples such as peanut butter, soup, rice, and beans, as well as fresh produce and bakery items. In each community, ETFB partners with a church or other local organization, which provides a host site and volunteers to help distribute the food.

The primary goal of the Mobile Pantry Program is to provide immediate food assistance to low-income households. ETFB currently operates the Mobile Pantry Program in nine rural East Texas communities, including: Carthage, Douglass, Elkhart, Etoile, Grapeland, Hughes Springs, Marshall, Overton, and Waskom. Altogether, we serve an estimated 765 client households each month.

The long-term goal of the program is to facilitate the creation of permanent food pantries in the communities where the program operates, which will then become a part of ETFB’s partner agency network. Since the Mobile Pantry Program was launched in November 2011, nine program sites transitioned into independent food pantries.

The Mobile Pantry Program works in conjunction with our Senior Box Program, which is largely supported through the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which provides USDA food commodities for low-income seniors and administrative funding to support food distribution. Since the Mobile Program operates in communities where ETFB also distributes CSFP foods, we are able to leverage these federal grant funds to help cover programmatic expenses such as fuel and program staff mileage.

- c. **Describe the program participants or beneficiaries. Are you planning to serve people of a particular age group, ethnic background or income level? How many people will your program serve?**

The Mobile Pantry Program specifically targets low-income individuals and families in underserved, rural communities throughout East Texas. For ETFB and its partner agencies, low-income status is measured against federal poverty guidelines. Generally, ETFB's clients have household incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty line. However, more than 80% of those we serve have incomes at or below the poverty line. Many of those served by ETFB are hard-working people who simply can't make enough money to feed their families. Many are senior citizens on a fixed income, who are sometimes forced to choose between buying food and paying for utilities or medicine. And many of those who benefit from the program are children. The Mobile Pantry Program currently serves an estimated 765 client households each month, which includes more than 1,600 individuals.

- d. **Describe the aspects of your program that are unique or innovative. Is your program a model for other communities? How will you communicate your program's success to other communities?**

Although ETFB partners with many food pantries and feeding programs throughout East Texas, the Mobile Pantry Program is the only large-scale mobile food distribution program providing targeted food assistance in underserved, rural communities. This program enables ETFB to get out onto the "front lines" in the fight against hunger, directly distributing food to low-income individuals and families. The program is simple, replicable, and scalable, and can provide a model for both distributing emergency food assistance, and cultivating long-term partnerships in rural communities to ensure sustained service to those in need. ETFB regularly seeks to establish new partnerships in targeted areas, informing community stakeholders of the scope of hunger in their communities, and of the opportunity to help host program sites, and eventually, to launch their own hunger relief agencies.

- e. **Provide a budget for the project you have proposed, included the specific use of grant funds requested. In addition, include a one-page profit/loss statement and a budget for your organization's prior fiscal year. If TRC were unable to fund the total amount you have requested, would you accept a smaller grant?**

The budget for the Mobile Pantry Program is attached, as well as a one-page profit/loss statement and a budget for ETFB's prior fiscal year, 2016. ETFB requests a grant of \$5,000 from TRC to support the Mobile Pantry Program, and all TRC funds would support direct program costs, such as the cost of food. If TRC were unable to award a grant of \$5,000, we would gladly accept a smaller grant. ETFB raises funding for the Mobile Pantry Program for a variety of sources, and every dollar given makes an impact in the lives of hungry East Texans.

**f. Describe the expected outcomes or accomplishments for your program. How will you measure these outcomes?**

Expected outcomes for the Mobile Pantry Program include: increased access to emergency food assistance in underserved, rural communities; reduced hunger among low-income, food-insecure households; increased awareness of hunger in target communities; and the creation of new independent food pantries in underserved, rural communities. ETFB tracks the number of boxes distributed through the Mobile Pantry Program, as well the total number of pounds of food distributed, through an integrated financial and inventory management system. ETFB tracks the number of client households served by the program, as well as the total number of individuals served, through an online client database system, which is also utilized by our partner agency network.

**g. Give a timeline for your project or program and expenditure of proposed grant funds.**

ETFb's Mobile Pantry Program is an ongoing program that operates year-round. Food distributions are conducted monthly at each program site. All grant funds would be expended within twelve months of the date that funds are received.

**h. If the organization has received a grant award from TRC in the two preceding years, report the timeline, outcomes and financial expenditures related to the award.**

N/A