

HOPE INTAKE: USDA ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The food items provided by the Central Texas Food Bank through the HOPE program include US Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities. Therefore, to receive HOPE food, clients must be eligible according to USDA guidelines. There are three ways that an individual can qualify for HOPE.

Does my household receive **FEDERAL BENEFITS** that make me eligible?

If you or someone in your household receives one or several of the following federal benefits, you have categorical eligibility for HOPE. You are automatically eligible to receive food and do not need to disclose your household's income.

- o Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- o Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- o Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- o National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- o Non-institutional Medicaid

Does my household **INCOME** make me eligible?

If no one in your household receives any of the above federal benefits, you may still qualify for HOPE on the basis of income. Using the chart below, find the income cutoff for the number of people in your household. If this dollar amount is equal to or below your household income, you meet the requirements to receive USDA commodities and are eligible to participate in HOPE.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Income Eligibility Guidelines

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Based on 185% of Federal Poverty Guidelines					
Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Twice-Monthly Income	Bi-Weekly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$984	\$908	\$454
2	\$31,894	\$2,658	\$1,329	\$1,227	\$614
3	\$40,182	\$3,349	\$1,675	\$1,546	\$773
4	\$48,470	\$4,040	\$2,020	\$1,865	\$933
5	\$56,758	\$4,730	\$2,365	\$2,183	\$1,092
6	\$65,046	\$5,421	\$2,711	\$2,502	\$1,251
For each additional household member, add:	+ \$8,288	+ \$691	+ \$346	+ \$319	+ \$160

If I don't qualify due to federal benefits or income, do I have an **EMERGENCY FOOD NEED** that makes me eligible?

If no one in your household receives the qualifying federal benefits and your household does not meet the USDA's Income Eligibility Guidelines, you may still qualify to receive food if a household crisis has caused an emergency food need. To qualify, a household crisis must be unexpected, temporary, and beyond the household's control. Examples include a medical emergency, the death of a family member, the loss of a job, or the need to repair or replace a home or vehicle.

If you need food due to such a crisis, you can qualify for HOPE by documenting your emergency food need on the HOPE Intake Form. After six months, you will need to re-qualify for the program by completing a new Intake Form. At that time, if you still do not qualify due to federal benefits or income but you are experiencing the same or a new emergency situation, you may re-declare your state of emergency and qualify to receive food for an additional six months.

For more information on eligibility requirements for receiving food through the Food Bank distribution programs please contact the Food Bank Programs Team at (512) 282-2111.

