



## **Talking Points: TEFAP**

- Federal cuts have created a large shortfall in available food for the 113,750 South Dakotans who are food insecure.
- Feeding South Dakota is faced with unprecedented demand for food assistance and strained resources.
  - Month-over-month program usage continues to rise by 8%-15% compared to the prior year.
  - More than 265,000 meals have been cut through federal decisions.
- Further cuts in USDA food programs pose a severe threat to food security across the state and will drive an increased reliance on our food bank and community partners who are already at capacity.
- Previous administrations of both have parties invested in programs to connect U.S. farmers with food banks. Since 2018, this has led to roughly \$1 billion in food purchases annually to support U.S. agriculture and distribute through emergency feeding organizations.
- We need a strong, bipartisan farm bill that includes strong investments in agriculture and nutrition programs like TEFAP. The farm bill strengthens our nation's food security best when it both supports farmers and reduces hunger.