

# ACDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Coming Together to Nourish the Nation**



**April 21 - 24, 2024**  
**Marriott St. Louis Grand**  
**St. Louis, Missouri**

# State-Level Advocacy: Strengthening TEFAP

Household & Community Feeding

# Today's Speakers



Gabrielle  
Murphy  
*St. Louis Area  
Food Bank*



Julia Lemp  
*Feeding  
America*



Katherine  
Byers  
*Houston Food  
Bank*

# TEFAP & State Advocacy Overview

Cornerstone food source for the  
Feeding America network

Farms → Food Banks → Families

>> Federal Program

>> Administered by States

>> Operationalized by Emergency  
Feeding Organizations



# Advocacy Opportunities

## State

**Who:** State Administrators; State Legislators

**How:** State Plan Amendments

**What:** State-Level Program Options

## Federal

**Who:** Congress; USDA

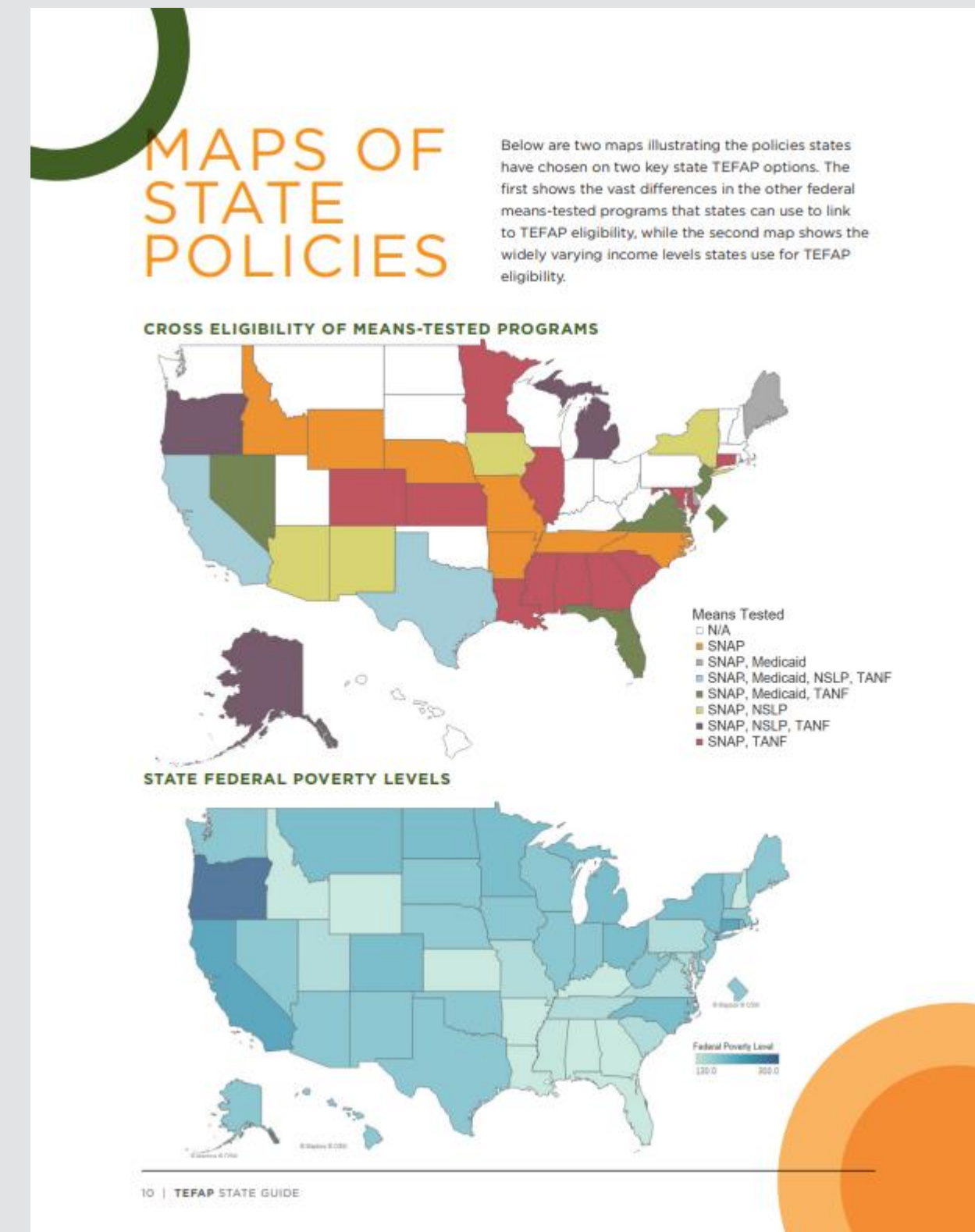
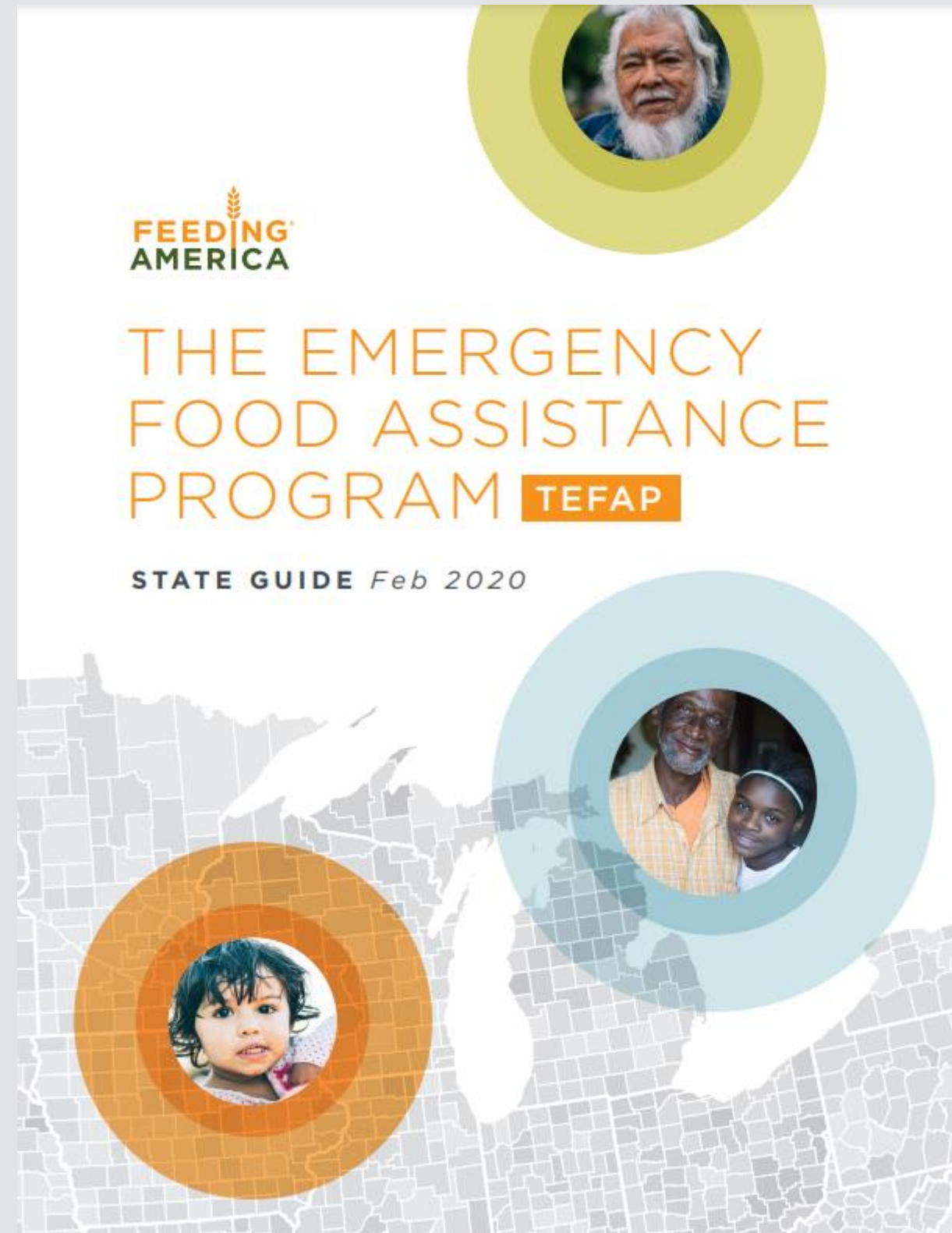
**How:** Farm Bill; Rulemaking

**What:** Funding; Federal Rules and Regulations Changes

# Resource: Feeding America's TEFAP State Guide

## State-by-State Options:

- Participant Access & Eligibility
- Ordering
- Distribution
- Administration
- and more!



# Texas & the TEFAP Signature

- Lessons in knowing what flexibilities exist and why your state agency doesn't employ them
- The only federal requirements:
  - Income guidelines for receipt of commodities
  - Standards for applicants to show proof of income
  - Ensure applicant resides in state (without respect to length of residency)
- Federal regulations allow for, but do not require, a recipient of TEFAP to sign when applying for TEFAP and when picking up TEFAP foods.

# Texas & the TEFAP Signature

- Baby steps:

- Flexibility during COVID for safety and to accommodate drive-through
- Household eligibility = Categorical or COVID-19; Signature = COVID-19

El formulario de solicitud del Programa de Asistencia Alimentaria de Emergencia

Agency Name [DISTRIBUTION SITE NAME & ADDRESS] \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Distribution \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency Rep Name Print [ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPRESENTATIVE] \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Categorical Eligibility	
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
TANF	Temporary Assistance For Needy Families
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
NSLP	National School Lunch Program
Medicaid	Medicaid

\*\*Certification period for eligible households through 10/31/2020.  
 Households not eligible on the basis of income can qualify through a household crisis.

Name/Nombre	Address/ Dirección	*Categorical Eligibility / Elegibilidad categórica	Household Income/Ingreso Familiar (Year, monthly, or weekly/ *Annual, por mes o por semana)	# in Household/ Número de miembros del hogar	Household Crisis/ Elegibilidad de Crisis del Hogar	Signature/Proxy Name & Signature / Firma / Proxy Nombre y Firma	For Staff Use only: Household is Eligible or Not Eligible
					COVID-19	COVID-19	eligible/not eligible
					COVID-19	COVID-19	eligible/not eligible
					COVID-19	COVID-19	eligible/not eligible
					COVID-19	COVID-19	eligible/not eligible
					COVID-19	COVID-19	eligible/not eligible
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					COVID-19	COVID-19	eligible/not eligible

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# Texas & the TEFAP Signature

- Staff member on TDA TEFAP workgroup
- As waiver was coming to an end - required signature but included other categories in addition to income: categorical & crisis
- Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)'s impression was food banks wanted signatures as a “protection from liability.” - formal attestation to income eligibility

Texas Department of Agriculture February 2022 | Form H1555b

### Alternate Household Application for USDA Foods

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). *Sites may request but must not require proof of information.*

**Categorical Eligibility for USDA Foods**  
If a household currently receives one or more of the following types of assistance, the CE should mark the household categorically eligible.

Categorical Eligibility	
<b>SNAP</b>	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
<b>TANF</b>	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
<b>SSI</b>	Supplemental Security Income
<b>NSLP</b>	National School Lunch Program
<b>Medicaid</b>	Medicaid

**TEFAP Income Eligibility Guidelines**  
Effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Household Size	Total Income				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	\$23,828	\$1,986	\$993	\$917	\$459
2	\$32,227	\$2,686	\$1,343	\$1,240	\$620
3	\$40,626	\$3,386	\$1,693	\$1,563	\$782
4	\$49,025	\$4,086	\$2,043	\$1,886	\$943
5	\$57,424	\$4,786	\$2,393	\$2,209	\$1,105
6	\$65,823	\$5,486	\$2,743	\$2,532	\$1,266
7	\$74,222	\$6,186	\$3,093	\$2,855	\$1,428
8	\$82,621	\$6,886	\$3,443	\$3,178	\$1,589
For each additional, add:	+\$8,399	+\$700	+\$350	+\$324	+\$162

**By signing below, I certify that:**  
**1)** I am a member or a proxy of the household living at the address provided and that, on behalf of the household, I apply for USDA Foods that are distributed through The Emergency Food Assistance Program; **2)** all information provided to the agency determining my household's eligibility is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and correct. I acknowledge that I may be prosecuted for making false statements related to the information I have provided for this application.

Household Member or Proxy Print Name and Sign	Street Address, City & Zip	Household Size	Certification (TO BE COMPLETED BY CE/SITE STAFF)			
			Eligible			Ineligible
			Categorical	Income	Crisis	

# Texas & the TEFAP Signature

Name of household member/Nombre del miembro de la unidad familiar		Number of household members/ Número de miembros del hogar	
Address (if available)/Dirección (si disponible)			
Name of proxy/Nombre de apoderado			
<b>Section 2 — Categorical Eligibility</b>		<b>Sección 2 — Elegibilidad Categórica</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Programa de ayuda suplemental de la nutrición <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Asistencia temporal para familias necesitadas <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Seguridad de ingreso suplementario <input type="checkbox"/> National School Lunch Program (NSLP) (free or reduced-price meals)/Programa nacional de almuerzos escolares (comidas gratis o a precio reducido) <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid/Medicaid			
<b>Section 3 — Income Eligibility</b>		<b>Sección 3 — Elegibilidad de Ingresos</b>	
Total gross income \$ _____		Ingreso bruto total \$ _____	
_____ per year    _____ per month    _____ per week		_____ por año    _____ por mes    _____ por semana	
<b>Section 4 — Household Crisis Eligibility</b>		<b>Sección 4 — Elegibilidad de Crisis del Hogar</b>	
If household is eligible for household crisis food needs, document reason for crisis here./Si el hogar es elegible para las necesidades alimentarias del hogar en caso de crisis, documenta el motivo de la crisis aquí.			
<b>Section 5 — Certification</b>		<b>Sección 5 — Certificación</b>	
I certify that:		Certifico que:	
(1) I am a member of the household living at the address provided in Section 4 and that on behalf of the household I		(1) soy miembro del hogar que vive en la dirección que se da en la Sección 4 y me solicito en nombre de la unidad familiar la demofra	

If the CE wishes to continue collecting TEFAP applicant signatures, please note that signatures will now be considered “additional information” - not required for determining eligibility for USDA Foods.

*Collection of additional information must not be a real or perceived barrier to participation.*

**We hope that by removing the signature requirement, Texans will have one less barrier to accessing the food they need. Thank you for all for your continued hard work and dedication.**

**ADVOCACY MATTERS!**

# QUESTIONS?

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