



Chair Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly

May 14, 2026

RE: In strong support of Representative Slater's Allocation to the RI Community Food Bank, H7259

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee:

Thank you for your continued support of Rhode Islanders struggling with hunger. We are deeply grateful that the General Assembly exceeded the Governor's FY26 budget proposal by allocating \$950,000 to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. That investment made a meaningful difference for thousands of households facing record-high food costs.

However, the need continues to grow. Our 2025 Status on Hunger Report found that 1 in 3 Rhode Island households is now experiencing food insecurity. In November 2025 alone, more than 102,000 Rhode Islanders turned to local food pantries—an unprecedented level of need. At the same time, food donations have declined, leaving us serving more people with fewer resources.

We appreciate that Governor McKee has recognized this challenge and proposed increasing funding to \$1.95 million in his FY27 budget. We respectfully urge the General Assembly to go further by supporting Representative Slater's proposal in H7259 to provide \$3 million for the Food Bank.

Looking ahead, additional reductions in SNAP benefits will place even greater strain on our network. Thousands of Rhode Islanders are expected to lose a combined \$9.5 million in food assistance—far more than the charitable food system can replace. While we will continue to do everything possible to support our neighbors, we cannot meet this growing demand without increased state investment.

State funding is critical to our ability to purchase and distribute nutritious food through our network of 137 partner agencies serving every community in Rhode Island. Recent federal data analyzed by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows a 7% decline in SNAP participation in Rhode Island between July and December 2025, even before many federal policy changes have taken full effect. As benefits continue to shrink, more Rhode Islanders will turn to emergency food programs, further increasing demand.

We respectfully urge the House to support H7259. This investment will help ensure that every Rhode Islander facing hunger has access to the food they need to stay healthy and secure.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Melissa Cherney
CEO, Rhode Island Community Food Bank



RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

Rhode Islanders are hungry. We can help.



Demand for emergency food assistance in Rhode Island reached historic highs in 2025. **The need is greater than ever.**

And with a record high cost of living and more changes to SNAP on the horizon, we must act with urgency to help our neighbors.

THE ASK

Please support this **\$3 million appropriation – used exclusively to buy food** – to allow the Rhode Island Community Food Bank to leverage its significant purchasing power.

In recent years, the Food Bank and its network of member agencies have seen a steady decline in food donations from individuals and community groups. To make up this gap, the Food Bank uses its purchasing power by collaborating with and buying in bulk from various partners.

THE OUTCOME

\$3 million = 3 million pounds of food = feeding Rhode Islanders for two months.

Local, safe, healthy, and culturally appropriate foods will be purchased and distributed through the Food Bank’s network of 137 food pantries and meal sites.

This critical support will provide the Food Bank and its network with much needed relief.



The Food Bank serves more than 89,000 Rhode Islanders each month – seniors, children, and our friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Many more are just one paycheck away from going hungry. Feeding our fellow Rhode Islanders makes good economic sense and is the right thing to do.

Vote for H7259 and S2237

to put food on the plates of Rhode Island families.

Sponsored by Representative Scott Slater and Senator Tiara Mack





RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

Name	Address	City	ZIP	Category
Allendale Baptist Church	545 Woonasquatucket Ave.	North Providence	02911	PANTRY
Amos House Meal Site	460 Pine Street	Providence	02907	MEAL SITE
Assembly Pentecostal Church of God Shalom	145 Chad Brown Street	Providence	02908	PANTRY
Better Lives RI Food Cupboard	12 Abbott Park Place	Providence	02903	PANTRY
Better Lives RI Meal Site	134 Mathewson Street	Providence	02903	MEAL SITE
Blackstone Valley Community Action Program	210 West Avenue	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center	75 Benefit Street	Pawtucket	02861	PANTRY
Blessed Mother Mary Food Pantry Inc	1 Weingeroff Blvd	Cranston	02910	PANTRY
Burrillville SDA Shepherd's Food Pantry	854 Victory Highway	Burrillville	02839	PANTRY
Camp Street Ministries	190 1/2 Camp Street	Providence	02906	PANTRY
Casa De Oracion Getsemani	38 Park Street	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
Center for Southeast Asians	270 Elmwood Avenue	Providence	02907	PANTRY
Central Falls Food Pantry at Progreso Latino	20 Claremont Street	Central Falls	02863	PANTRY
Chepachet Union Church	1138 Putnam Pike	Glocester	02814	PANTRY
Church of the Cross Smithfield	600 Douglas Pike	Smithfield	02917	PANTRY
Church of the Master Meal Site	15 Valley Street	Providence	02909	MEAL SITE
Community Action Partnership of Providence Pantry	550 Hartford Ave	Providence	02909	PANTRY
Community Baptist Church Meal Site	40 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd.	Newport	02840	MEAL SITE
Community Care Alliance Agape	245 Main Street	Woonsocket	02895	PANTRY
Community Care Alliance Food Pantry	245 Main Street	Woonsocket	02895	PANTRY
Community Food Share First Unitarian Church	1 Benevolent Street	Providence	02906	PANTRY
Comprehensive CAP Cranston	311 Doric Avenue	Cranston	02910	PANTRY
Comprehensive CAP Foster Food Pantry	181 Howard Hill Road	Foster	02825	PANTRY
Connecting for Children and Families Pantry	719 Front St, Suite 107	Woonsocket	02895	PANTRY
Coventry Friends of Human Services	191 MacArthur Blvd	Coventry	02816	PANTRY

Cowden Street Collaborative dba Segue IFL Food Pantry	390 Pine Street	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
Crossroads RI Meal Program	160 Broad Street	Providence	02903	MEAL SITE
DaVinci Center for Community Progress Food Pantry	470 Charles Street	Providence	02904	PANTRY
East Bay CAP East Providence	100 Bullocks Point Avenue	East Providence	02915	PANTRY
East Bay Community Action Newport Pantry	19 Broadway	Newport	02840	PANTRY
East Bay Community Action Program Tiverton Pantry	1048 Stafford Road	Tiverton	02878	PANTRY
East Bay Food Pantry	532 Wood Street	Bristol	02809	PANTRY
East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard	99 Peirce Street	East Greenwich	02818	PANTRY
Edgewood Pawtuxet Food Closet	1665 Broad Street	Cranston	02905	PANTRY
Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Pantry	9 New London Avenue	West Warwick	02893	PANTRY
Embassy of Christ Church Food Pantry	649 Woonasquatucket Ave.	North Providence	02911	PANTRY
Epiphany Soup Kitchen at St. Stephen's Church	114 George Street	Providence	02906	MEAL SITE
Faith Fellowship Food Pantry	1395 Nooseneck Hill Road	Coventry	02816	PANTRY
Family Service Afia Pantry	55 Hope Street	Providence	02906	PANTRY
Federal Hill House Pantry	35 Swiss Street	Providence	02909	PANTRY
First Baptist Church of Pawtucket	91 Cottage Street	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
Gateway Healthcare Capital City Community Center Pantry	285A Chad Brown Street	Providence	02908	PANTRY
Good Neighbors Meal Site	55 Turner Avenue	East Providence	02915	MEAL SITE
Good Neighbors Pantry	55 Turner Avenue	East Providence	02915	PANTRY
Good Neighbors Rumford Food Pantry	100 Newman Avenue	East Providence	02916	PANTRY
Haitian Baptist Church of Rhode Island	12 Lincoln Avenue	Cranston	02920	PANTRY
Higher Ground International Food Pantry	7 Ninigret Avenue	Providence	02907	PANTRY
Holy Family Parish	195 Walcott Street	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
Holy Trinity Church Food Pantry	1371 Park Avenue	Woonsocket	02895	PANTRY
Impact Center Providence Assembly of God Meal Site	353 Elmwood Avenue	Providence	02907	MEAL SITE
Impact Center Providence Assembly of God Pantry	353 Elmwood Avenue	Providence	02907	PANTRY
Interfaith Food Ministry	95 Hathaway Ctr #61	Providence	02907	PANTRY
JCS-Louis and Goldie Chester Kosher Pantry	1165 North Main Street	Providence	02904	PANTRY
Jonnycake of Westerly Food Pantry	23 Industrial Drive	Westerly	02891	PANTRY
Jonnycake Peace Dale	22 Kersey Road	South Kingstown	02879	PANTRY

Joy Fellowship Pantry on the Lane	7 North Main Street	Westerly	02808	PANTRY
Lighthouse Community Development Corporation	11 Hawthorne Street	Providence	02907	PANTRY
Lighthouse Community Outreach	30 Meeting Street	Cumberland	02864	PANTRY
Lime Rock Baptist Church	1075 Great Road	Lincoln	02865	PANTRY
Little Compton Food Bank	115 East Main Road	Little Compton	02837	PANTRY
Living Hope Assembly of God	100 Broadway	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
Love Divine Pantry	28 Candace Street	Providence	02908	PANTRY
Maranatha Food Pantry of Church of God	1040 Atwells Avenue	Providence	02909	PANTRY
Martin Luther King Center Meal Site	20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd.	Newport	02840	MEAL SITE
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Mathewson Street United Methodist Church Meal Site	134 Mathewson Street	Providence	02903	MEAL SITE
McAuley House Food Pantry	622 Elmwood Avenue	Providence	02907	PANTRY
McAuley House Meal Site	622 Elmwood Avenue	Providence	02907	MEAL SITE
Meals on Wheels of RI Food Pantry	70 Bath Street	Providence	02908	PANTRY
Meeting Street	1000 Eddy Street	Providence	02905	PANTRY
New Beginnings Meal Site	24 Hamlet Avenue	Woonsocket	02895	MEAL SITE
New Hope Pantry	80 Richmond Townhouse Rd.	Richmond	02812	PANTRY
New Life Assembly of God	251 Post Road	South Kingstown	02879	PANTRY
North Kingstown Food Pantry	445 School Street	North Kingstown	02852	PANTRY
Northern Rhode Island Food Pantry	1 Angell Road	Cumberland	02864	PANTRY
One Less Worry Meal Site	475 Cranston Street	Providence	02907	MEAL SITE
Our Lady of the Rosary Pantry	17 Traverse Street	Providence	02903	PANTRY
PCOC Parenti Villa Senior High Rise Pantry	25 Tobey Street	Providence	02909	PANTRY
Pentecostal Church Jesus Christ Fountain of Life Pantry	1025 Plainfield St	Johnston	02919	PANTRY
Pilgrim Lutheran Church	1817 Warwick Avenue	Warwick	02889	PANTRY
Project Outreach	1520 Broad Street	Providence	02905	PANTRY
Project Weber/RENEW	36 Park Place	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
Providence Spanish SDA	131 Elmwood Avenue	Providence	02907	PANTRY
Refugee Development Center	747 Broad Street	Providence	02907	PANTRY
RI Center Assisting those in Need	805 Alton Carolina Road	Charlestown	02813	PANTRY
RI Indian Council	807 Broad Street	Providence	02907	PANTRY
RICFB Justice Assistance	1540 Pontiac Avenue	Cranston	02920	PANTRY
RICFB Olneyville Food Center	261 Manton Avenue	Providence	02909	PANTRY
Salvation Army Newport Corps' Food Pantry	51 Memorial Boulevard	Newport	02840	PANTRY
Salvation Army Newport Corps' Meal Site	51 Memorial Boulevard	Newport	02840	MEAL SITE

Salvation Army Pawtucket Corps' Food Pantry	102 High Street	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
Salvation Army Providence Corps' Food Pantry	386 Broad Street	Providence	02907	PANTRY
Scalabrini Lay Movement Inc.	300 Laurel Hill Avenue	Providence	02909	PANTRY
Shalom Housing, Inc. Food Pantry	1 Shalom Drive	Warwick	02886	PANTRY
Silver Lake Community Center	529 Plainfield Street	Providence	02909	PANTRY
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Coventry	222 MacArthur Blvd.	Coventry	02816	PANTRY
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Our Lady of Good Help	1063 Victory Highway	Burrillville	02839	PANTRY
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - St. John Paul II	755 Central Avenue	Pawtucket	02861	PANTRY
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - St. Joseph	5 Mann Avenue	Newport	02840	PANTRY
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - St. Philip	620 Putnam Pike	Smithfield	02828	PANTRY
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - St. Raymond	1240 North Main Street	Providence	02904	PANTRY
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - West Bay Meal Site	222 MacArthur Blvd.	Coventry	02816	MEAL SITE
St. Agatha Church	34 Joffre Avenue	Woonsocket	02895	PANTRY
St. Anthony Mission Church Pantry of Assumption BVM	549 Plainfield Street	Providence	02909	PANTRY
St. Charles of Borromeo Meal Site	178 Dexter Street	Providence	02907	MEAL SITE
St. Charles of Borromeo Pantry	178 Dexter Street	Providence	02907	PANTRY
St. Edward Food & Wellness Center	1001 Branch Avenue	Providence	02904	PANTRY
St. James Episcopal Church	24 Hamlet Avenue	Woonsocket	02895	PANTRY
St. John the Baptist Food Pantry	69 Quincy Avenue	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
St. Luke's Bread of Life	670 Weeden Street	Pawtucket	02860	PANTRY
St. Martin de Porres Senior Center Food Pantry	160 Cranston Street	Providence	02907	PANTRY
St. Mary of the Bay Food Pantry	645 Main Street	Warren	02885	PANTRY
St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry	690 Newport Avenue	Pawtucket	02861	PANTRY
St. Patrick Church Mary House Food Pantry	244 Smith Street	Providence	02908	PANTRY
St. Patrick Church Mary House Meal Kitchen	244 Smith Street	Providence	02908	MEAL SITE
St. Patrick Food Closet	45 Harrisville Main Street	Burrillville	02830	PANTRY
St. Paul the Apostle	116A Danielson Pike	Foster	02825	PANTRY
St. Peter & St. Andrew Food Pantry	70 Pemberton Street	Providence	02908	PANTRY
St. Peter by the Sea Community Market Pantry	72 Central Street	Narragansett	02882	PANTRY
St. Robert Food Closet	1804 Atwood Avenue	Johnston	02919	PANTRY

St. Thomas Church	65 Fruit Hill Avenue	Providence	02909	PANTRY
Tap-In	281 County Road	Barrington	02806	PANTRY
Tri-County CAP North Kingstown	415 Tower Hill Road	North Kingstown	02852	PANTRY
Tri-County CAP North Providence	11 Emanuel Street	North Providence	02911	PANTRY
Tri-County CAP Volturno St.	19 Volturno Street	North Providence	02904	PANTRY
Tri-County CAP Westerly	34 Pond Street	Westerly	02891	PANTRY
Trinity Episcopal Church Food Pantry	249 Danielson Pike	Scituate	02825	PANTRY
WARM Center Meal Site Program	54 Spruce Street	Westerly	02891	MEAL SITE
Washington Park Community Center	42 Jillson Street	Providence	02905	PANTRY
West End Community Center Pantry	109 Bucklin Street	Providence	02907	PANTRY
West Warwick Assistance Agency	1293 Main Street	West Warwick	02893	PANTRY
West Warwick Senior Center Meal Site	145 Washington Street	West Warwick	02893	MEAL SITE
West Warwick Senior Center Pantry	145 Washington Street	West Warwick	02893	PANTRY
Westbay CAP Marketplace	487 Jefferson Blvd	Warwick	02886	PANTRY
Women's Refugee Care	570 Broad Street	Providence	02907	PANTRY
Your Neighborhood Food Pantry	533 Branch Avenue	Providence	02904	PANTRY