

Food Program Funding Policy Brief

Funding for essential food programs has been cut.

The Problem

The Government of Nova Scotia administers annual and ad hoc grants for community food programs through various departments. In 2026, annual funding for community grants, including food programs, were cut by over \$76 million to address budget deficits. At the same time, a one-time \$5 million *Feeding Communities* grant fund was announced to support communities in crisis to access emergency food.

Community organizations running food programs across Nova Scotia provide essential responses to food insecurity, rooted in community strengths and needs. The stability and future of many of these programs are at risk through future budget cuts and the end of ad hoc/one-time funding cycles.

Our Demand

Feed Nova Scotia is calling on the Government of Nova Scotia to transition all food program funding to stable, multi-year funding.

Why?

- Stable, multi-year funding agreements are crucial to ensure community food program continuity and contributions to community food security can be advanced in a more secure way. Without longer-term funding allocation, these programs are at risk.

Impact

How will this policy change make a difference?

Stabilized funding would help community food program operators to use funding more efficiently and be able to plan for longer-term program delivery. Participants of food programs would benefit by knowing that they can continue to receive the supports.

What will happen if the Government of Nova Scotia does not make this change?

Some community food programs may risk closure or program/staffing cuts if they don't receive consistent funding. Participants who may be experiencing food insecurity will not



know if these supports will remain available to them long-term, removing both an essential support for food access and an opportunity for community connection.

Have questions or want to learn more? Contact us at advocacy@feednovascotia.ca