



July 2, 2025

To the Members of the Fort Bragg City Council,

On behalf of the Fort Bragg Food Bank, I am writing to you today with an urgent appeal regarding the severe impact of recent funding cuts on our ability to serve the most vulnerable members of our community. These cuts have significantly hampered our operations at a time when the need for food assistance is unfortunately increasing.

The Fort Bragg Food Bank has long been a lifeline for individuals and families facing food insecurity. We provide essential nutritional support, ensuring that no one in our city goes hungry. However, the reduction in our operational budget has forced us to make difficult decisions, including reducing the frequency of our distributions and limiting the quantity of food we can offer per household. This directly translates to more Fort Bragg residents struggling to access adequate food.

We are witnessing a growing number of families, seniors, and individuals who are unable to meet their basic food needs. The ripple effect of these cuts extends beyond just the food bank; it impacts the health and well-being of our entire community. Children are going to school hungry, seniors are making difficult choices between food and medication, and families are facing increased stress and hardship.

We understand that the city faces its own budgetary challenges, but we believe that investing in food security is an investment in the health and stability of Fort Bragg. We are requesting the city's immediate assistance to bridge this funding gap. Specifically, we propose the establishment of an ongoing funding mechanism from the city. This could take the form of a dedicated allocation in the city budget, a matching grant program for community donations, or a partnership that allows for regular, consistent financial support.

Ongoing funding would provide the Fort Bragg Food Bank with the stability and predictability necessary to effectively plan and execute our vital services. It would enable us to:

- **Maintain and expand our distribution capacity:** Ensure we can consistently provide nutritious food to all who need it.
- **Invest in sustainable food sources:** Explore partnerships with local farms and gleaning programs to secure fresh, healthy produce.
- **Support community outreach and education:** Increase awareness about food insecurity and connect more residents with available resources.
- **Plan for future needs:** Proactively address potential increases in demand and adapt to changing community needs.



We are committed to transparent reporting and accountability, and we are confident that any city investment would be utilized efficiently and effectively to directly benefit the residents of Fort Bragg.

We are available to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss this critical matter further and explore potential solutions that would ensure the continued operation and vital support provided by the Fort Bragg Food Bank.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent appeal. Your support is crucial in helping us continue our mission and ensure no one in Fort Bragg goes hungry.

Sincerely,

Amanda Friscia, Executive Director  
Mendo Food Network  
Fort Bragg Food Bank