

Background

Based on the data collected from our national research, MFAN convened the Military Family Food Insecurity Coalition (MFFIC) in September 2018 to address the issue of military hunger through solutions-driven collaboration.

The MFFIC is now comprised of over 30 military-connected nonprofits, advocacy and education organizations, policymakers, subject matter experts, industry leaders, food banks, and more.

Our coalition shares research and resources, raises awareness, and develops solutions to food insecurity among our military and veteran communities. Learn more at [MFAN's website](#).

Participants

American Red Cross	Mission Readiness
Armed Services YMCA	National Association of Counties
Bob Woodruff Foundation	National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Capital Area Food Bank	National WIC Association
Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA)	Northwest Harvest
Feeding America	Nourish Pierce County (WA)
Foodbank of SE Virginia and the Eastern Shore	Unite Us
Food Care Center Killeen (TX)	United Way
Food LifeLine	United Service Organization (USO)
Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)	San Antonio Food Bank
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger	UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
Military Family Advisory Network (MFAN)	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)	Wounded Warrior Project
MJ Simon & Company	

Role of MFFIC Participants

- Provide input on the development of solutions to alleviate military hunger
- Promote coalition efforts as well as the efforts of other coalition participants to combat hunger
- Update coalition participants on current and planned programs and priorities addressing military family food insecurity within their own organization
- Serve as a voice and champion for military families and present findings and recommendations to key leadership, government agencies, and peer organizations

2022 Meeting Schedule

The MFFIC currently convenes quarterly via Zoom. Each meeting allows for coalition participants and guest speakers to present as well as allotted time for participants to share updates, offer resources, or present programs on behalf of their organization. MFAN sets the agenda and provides minutes and materials following each meeting.

Q1: Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 1:30-2:30 p.m. ET

Q2: Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 1:30-2:30 p.m. ET

Q3: Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 1:30-2:30 p.m. ET

Q4: Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 1:30-2:30 p.m. ET

Send participant referrals, propose agenda items, and direct questions to:

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Join the conversation! The coalition has a [LinkedIn group](#) to continue the dialogue between meetings, share information and resources, and network with one another – all in real time.

Turning Data into Solutions

2017: MFAN advisory board members regularly reported stories of military families facing food insecurity. However, limited reporting and data made it difficult to provide more than anecdotes on the subject.

In the 2017 Military Family Support Programming Survey, which yielded 5,650 respondents, MFAN included a line of food insecurity questions. This qualitative research, known for the rigor of its methodology, gave us the opportunity to hear from military families in their own words and test what we heard from our network. Our survey found that **15% of military and veteran families have faced food insecurity at some point during their military career.**

2018: Based on the data collected from this survey, MFAN convened the Military Family Food Insecurity Coalition (MFFIC) to develop solutions that help to improve awareness and access to programs alleviating military hunger.

2019: In MFAN's [2019 Military Family Support Programming Survey](#), our research team deployed the USDA 6-Item Short Form Food Security Scale to help identify military families that are food insecure. This research identified that **12.7% of military families were food insecure.** Our research platform also allowed us to analyze the data on a regional scale using ZIP codes to identify key geographic areas of concern – like Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Hood, Texas, Hampton Roads, Virginia, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington – that helped to influence MFAN's programmatic strategy.

2021: MFAN's latest national research released in April 2021 found that the COVID-19 pandemic compounded the issue of food insecurity for military families, and found that [1 in 5 survey respondents](#) were struggling to put food on the table.

In spring 2021, with the help of [CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnell](#), MFAN launched the [1 Million Meals Challenge](#) – a nationwide campaign to combat military hunger through a three-pronged approach:

1. Immediate hunger relief through local food distribution events and community partnerships
2. Connecting families to ongoing support and resources
3. Conducting research to understand and ultimately address underlying factors that lead to food insecurity among military families

2022: We've reached a major milestone in the fight against hunger, but significant work remains. MFAN's continued efforts include:

- Maintaining food distributions in four target locations
- Identifying the causal factors of military family food insecurity through our research
- Launching *Combat Military Hunger Task Force* to identify the most efficient, scalable, and sustainable methods of getting food to military families in need