

Issue	Federal role	Provincial role (Ontario)	Municipal role	Why it matters to food banks
Income supports	Funds and delivers national income programs and tax benefits, such as the Canada Child Benefit, Old Age Security, Canada Disability Benefit, and Employment Insurance.	Oversees social assistance programs (Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program), including setting benefit rates and eligibility, and managing applications and payments.	Delivers person-centred casework for Ontario Works recipients, including connecting them to life-stabilization and employment supports.	When income supports do not keep pace with the cost of living, more people are forced to turn to food banks after paying for essentials like rent, utilities, and transportation.
Housing	Funds national housing programs, investments, and affordability strategies and initiatives.	Sets housing legislation and policy, establishes funding programs, and works with municipalities to increase housing supply and affordability.	Approves new developments, oversees land use and zoning, and is the primary funder and manager of social housing programs.	Housing costs are often a person or family's largest expense. As housing costs rise, and more income goes toward rent or mortgages, households often turn to food banks to fill the gap.
Homelessness	Funds national homelessness initiatives, community-based programs, and homelessness strategies.	Sets provincial policy and funding for homelessness services, supportive housing, and related programs.	Plans, delivers and coordinates local homelessness services, including emergency shelters, outreach, and community supports.	People experiencing homelessness often face significant barriers to accessing nutritious food, safe food storage, transportation, and other basic supports. Food banks often play an essential role in the local community's response.
Employment supports	Manages Employment Insurance, sets standards for federally-regulated industries, oversees work permits and programs.	Sets employment standards, labour laws, and the minimum wage, and funds employment services and training programs.	Supports local economic development and employment services and initiatives through community workforce programs.	Employment alone does not protect people from food insecurity. Low wages, precarious employment, or job loss can quickly leave a household struggling to afford food.
Poverty supports	Shapes national affordability measures, income supports, and economic policies.	Leads provincial poverty reduction strategies and sets social policies that influence household incomes and well-being.	Develops local poverty reduction strategies, coordinates community partnerships, and advocates for policies that strengthen local communities.	Food banks see the effects of poverty every day, but emergency food programs cannot solve poverty. Lasting solutions require coordinated action across all levels of government.

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