



Food for Families

Illinois Food Bank Association and the State of Illinois Working Together to Feed the Hungry

Who We Are

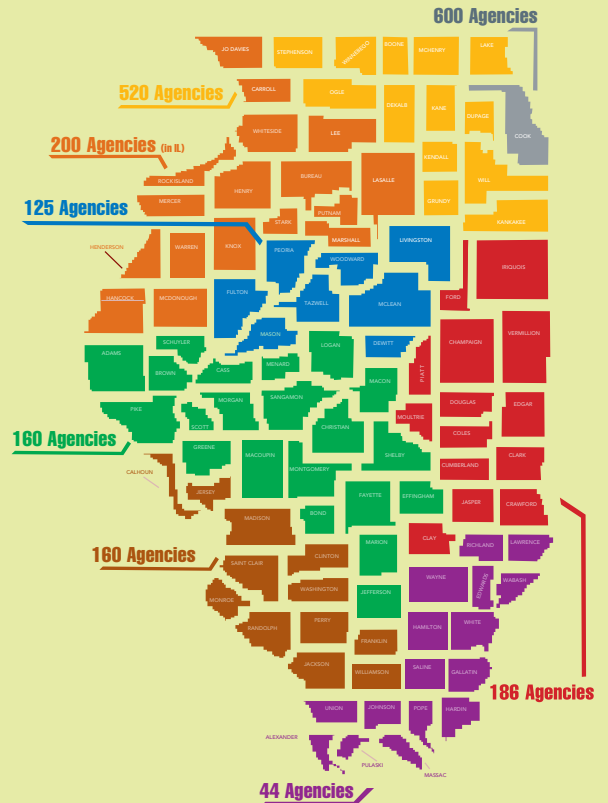
- The Illinois Food Bank Association (IFBA) is a coalition of eight America's Second Harvest food banks that cover every corner and every county of Illinois.
- Our purpose is to provide food to feed hungry people in Illinois and educate the public about hunger and the vital role food banks play in addressing hunger.

The Face of Hunger May Surprise You

- The IFBA distributes nearly 80 million pounds of food throughout Illinois each year, feeding more than 900,000 people in Illinois annually.
- Hunger affects all segments of the population. The majority of those turning to us for help are low income families, children, and senior citizens. Nearly 40 percent of those we serve are working poor individuals.
- Many individuals and families are turning to us for the first time because they are newly unemployed or simply can't make ends meet due to rising costs of living.

Meeting the Need in Illinois

- The IFBA and its members reach more than 900,000 Illinois residents annually. However, more than 1.5 million people in Illinois live in poverty, leaving more than half a million low-income Illinoisans at risk for hunger.
- The most recent data from the USDA indicates that 9.8% of Illinois households face food insecurity and that 497,991 children in Illinois (15.4% of children) are food insecure.
- The Hunger in America study indicates that the majority of food pantries and soup kitchens have seen a rapid increase in the number of individuals and families coming to their organizations for food assistance.
- Donations are in decline. While demand for food assistance is increasing in Illinois communities and across the nation, supplies are dwindling. Food donations and USDA commodities received through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) have declined in recent years.



- Central Illinois Food Bank Serves 160 agencies
- Eastern Illinois Food Bank Serves 186 agencies
- Greater Chicago Food Depository Serves 600 agencies
- Northern Illinois Food Bank Serves 520 agencies
- Peoria Area Food Bank Serves 125 agencies
- River Bend Food Bank Serves 200 agencies
- St. Louis Area Food Bank Serves 160 agencies
- Tri-State Food Bank Serves 44 agencies (in IL)

Food for Families (cont.)

Illinois Food Bank Association and the State of Illinois Working Together to Feed the Hungry

Providing Food to Families in Need

- The State of Illinois recently announced the Food for Families Program—a \$1,000,000 hunger relief initiative that will provide 1.5 million pounds of nutritious food, allowing the Illinois Food Bank Association to reach an additional 37,500 families in need and provide 3,090 extra meals each day to hungry families.
- This new initiative marks the first time state funding will be used to purchase food not available to the emergency food system through donations or federal nutrition programs.
- The IFBA and the many people we serve each year are grateful for this unprecedented measure of support from the State of Illinois and we look forward to a continued partnership.

Opportunities to Reach Even More Hungry Families in 2008-2009

The support provided by the State of Illinois in Fiscal Year 2007-08 had a significant impact and allowed the food banks to reach more people than ever before. As the Illinois Food Bank Association and its nearly 2,000 member agencies strive to meet the growing need and reach out to the most underserved areas of Illinois, we know that an even greater investment is needed. For that reason, the Illinois Food Bank Association is delighted to announce that \$5,000,000 has been pledged to support the Food for Families initiative for Fiscal Year 2009. In order to fully address the needs of constituents throughout Illinois, the IFBA would implement the following strategies in 2008-09.

Hunger Fighting Strategies

- **Food for Families Food Purchasing**—With the level of requested support, the IFBA would be able to distribute an additional 7,000,000 pounds of food which would allow the IFBA to reach an estimated 175,000 additional Illinois households in need of food assistance.
- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**—Of the food purchased, two million pounds would be fresh produce. This will enable the IFBA to be a part of the effort to make a healthier Illinois by increasing the nutritional value of food assistance available to the hungry.
- **Food for Families Statewide Mobile Pantry**—By creating a “mobile pantry” that can travel throughout Illinois the IFBA can ensure all Illinoisans—in rural, suburban and urban communities—have access to much needed food assistance. A mobile pantry is a traveling food pantry housed in a truck that delivers food assistance directly to those in need. A mobile response can also streamline the delivery process and reduce the strain on member agency partners to secure transportation in more remote parts of the state.
- **Targeted Distribution to Areas of Unmet Need**—Using data compiled by America’s Second Harvest, the IFBA can identify counties in Illinois that are most in need of additional food assistance. We can implement an enhanced response in these areas of unmet need through targeted mobile responses and focused allocation of new resources.

Thank You for Your Support

The newly established Food for Families program has allowed the members of the Illinois Food Bank Association to stock its shelves with approximately 1.5 million pounds of food and has ensured that food will be available for the hundreds of thousands of hungry Illinoisans who will turn to the IFBA this year. With continued partnership and support, the IFBA is making progress toward meeting the needs of hungry families throughout Illinois.

Visit www.feedingillinois.org for more information.