



END HUNGER NOW

Greater Chicago Food Depository

FY 2015 Advocacy Agenda

The Food Depository's mission is *providing food for hungry people while striving to end hunger in our community*. A key tactic in achieving this mission is advocating for policies that support the fight to end hunger. As need continues and programs that serve the hungry remain under attack, it is vital we do all that we can to ensure that vulnerable people have the food they need. In alignment with our 2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan "Growing the Field", GCFD utilizes an advocacy agenda at the federal, state, county and local government levels to support the accomplishment of the following strategic goals:

- Goal 1: Ensure the adequate supply, delivery and access to healthy food options for all people in need.
- Goal 2: Strengthen and encourage community-based responses to ending hunger.
- Goal 3: Mobilize the public to end hunger

Federal Government

- Ensure full funding for and proper implementation of a Farm Bill that supports vital nutrition programs, such as SNAP and TEFAP, that connect individuals and families to healthy food.
- Champion a Child Nutrition Act that protects and strengthens programs serving food insecure children.
- Maintain annual funding levels for vital hunger relief programs including Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

State Government

- Support and advance the recommendations of the Commission to End Hunger as part of its comprehensive plan to end hunger in Illinois.
- Improve participation in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) through the enactment of policies that increase access and decrease administrative burden.
- Improve the state administration of TEFAP to reduce administrative burdens and improve data quality.
- Protect and expand Illinois funding for Free School Breakfast and Lunch, Summer Feeding Programs, and At-Risk After-School Feeding programs.
- Promote the creation of an Illinois Agricultural Clearance Program to increase the amount of fruits and vegetables available to food insecure families.

County & Local Government

- Maintain and expand breakfast in the classroom program and urge broad implementation of universal breakfast and breakfast in the classroom programs.
- Explore opportunities for Cook County government to further invest in and support addressing hunger in our communities.
- Ensure the appropriate implementation of the City of Chicago's Healthy Chicago plan as it relates to the needs of food insecure families.
- Support the expansion of urban and local agriculture initiatives that benefit low-income families and work to alleviate hunger.



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- Expand access to out-of-school meals by reducing administrative burden and increasing opportunities to provide meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

How can you help move the Food Depository's Advocacy Agenda Forward?

- Introduce the Food Depository to your organization's policy and government relations staff to strengthen knowledge and relationships.
- If appropriate, encourage your organization to publicly support protecting the federal food and nutrition safety net through legislative visits and media.
- Connect the Food Depository with elected and appointed officials you have a strong relationship with at all levels.
- Participate in an in-district meeting or tour GCFD with your elected representative.
- Participate in the 2015 Washington, D.C. Lobby Summit, Springfield Hunger Summit, and Lobby Day (at own expense).