



## Greater Chicago Food Depository Statement on the White House FY18 Budget and its Impact on Hunger May 25, 2017

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The White House's FY18 budget, released on May 23, proposes billions of dollars in cuts to vital programs that prevent hunger in our community and empower our low-income neighbors to lift themselves out of poverty. The Greater Chicago Food Depository strongly opposes these recommendations, which would hurt our most vulnerable neighbors and create more demand than the charitable response could serve.

The proposed budget seeks to cut \$193 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is the largest federal nutrition program, over the next 10 years. These cuts would be achieved largely by shifting up to 25 percent of the cost of SNAP benefits to the states. In Illinois, this could cost the State up to \$760 million per year. **Considering Illinois' fiscal crisis, this is an unrealistic demand that would likely result in even deeper hardship for our most vulnerable neighbors.**

The budget also seeks to impose additional time limits and work requirements on able-bodied adults without dependents who receive SNAP benefits. While the budget frames this as an incentive for unemployed SNAP recipients to rejoin the workforce, our experience in the community tells us that such requirements ignore the lack of jobs or training programs in the community and would therefore simply take benefits away from struggling households.

SNAP is our nation's frontline defense against hunger. The majority of SNAP recipients are children, older adults and people with disabilities. SNAP protects these vulnerable populations from the worst cases of hunger while also lifting millions of working families out of poverty. According to Moody's Analytics, SNAP generates \$1.22 in economic activity for every \$1.00 in benefits it provides. **SNAP is effective, efficient and essential.**

Across the United States, SNAP and food banks work in tandem to prevent millions of Americans from going hungry. We are proud to be a part of this public-private partnership that responds to hunger every day in our community. If the White House's proposed cuts were enacted, or if unnecessary restrictions were placed on SNAP, food banks and pantries could never cover the difference.

We are also greatly concerned about the White House's proposal to cut funding for, or eliminate, other effective programs that provide vital services for struggling families in our community. This includes The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), AmeriCorps, Medicaid and much more. For more detail on the proposed cuts to these essential programs, please view [this supplemental document](#).

As a proud member of the Feeding America network of food banks, we aim to end hunger in our community by feeding our neighbors and addressing the root causes of the problem. But we can only achieve our mission if the public response to hunger remains strong.

This is the first step in a lengthy process and we will be advocating for the future of SNAP and other programs. If you believe that we should end hunger in Chicago, Cook County and the United States, we encourage you to [write and call your members of Congress](#) and tell them that "SNAP Works." For action alerts and more information, please visit <http://chicagosfoodbank.org/advocacy>