



Greater Chicago Food Depository

Public Policy and Advocacy Webinar

April 27, 2017 | Legislative Updates; SNAP Overview

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- 1. Legislative Updates**
 - **Federal**
 - **State**
- 2. Overview of SNAP**
- 3. Specific threats to SNAP**
 - **Block grants**
 - **Work requirements**
 - **Restricting choice**

•Farm Bill - Ensure Next Farm Bill Reduces Hunger

- Bill sets food policy and support for numerous critical nutrition and agriculture programs
- Current bill expires in 2018 – hearings have begun on the Farm Bill

•Federal Budget Update - Proposed Cuts and Eliminations

- \$200M **reduction** in WIC: In Illinois, more than 210,000 participants benefit from WIC services.
- \$3B **cut** in Community Development Block Grants – **Eliminates** ALL funding: The City of Chicago also uses \$1,006,000 in CDBG funding to provide emergency food assistance to 150 food pantries and shelters in partnership with the Food Depository.
- \$771M **cut** in Corporation for National and Community Service: **Eliminates** ALL funding: AmeriCorps, VISTA, and in IL more than 13,000 people will be affected.
- \$3.4B **cut** in LIHEAP: **Eliminates** the program that helps the elderly and low-income people pay their heating and power bills. In FY14, more than 350,000 households in Illinois received assistance.
- **OVERALL: \$4.7B cut in the USDA Budget**



George "Sonny" Perdue (R-GA)

Former Governor of Georgia (2003-2011)

On Monday, April 24, the U.S. Senate confirmed Sonny Perdue to serve as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture by a vote of 87-11. He is the final cabinet appointment to be confirmed.

Perdue presented four broad goals in his testimony:

- 1) Maximize US agriculture and Agribusiness sectors (deregulation)
- 2) Prioritize customer service at USDA
- 3) Ensure a safe and secure food supply
- 4) Safeguarding the trust private landowners and stewardship of natural resources.

Important questions that remain:

- ✓ Stance on SNAP?
- ✓ Stance on meal programs, WIC, Dietary guidelines?
- ✓ Role of USDA overall?

The “replacement” bill, American Health Care Act (AHCA):

- Reduced access to coverage and benefits for the people we serve. Effectively ended Medicaid expansion, harming millions of older adults, people with disabilities, and children.
- The House of Representatives planned to vote on Friday, March 24th to repeal the Affordable Care Act and make deep cuts to Medicaid – but failed to be brought up for a vote.

New MacArthur Amendment to AHCA:

- Allows states to opt out of Obamacare regulations on essential health benefits, community rating requirements, and the amount older and/or sicker Americans are charged for coverage.
- Permits states to reject continuous coverage provision.
- For states to opt out, they need to propose at least one of the following to receive a waiver:
 - 1) Reduce average premiums for coverage
 - 2) Increase enrollment
 - 3) Stabilize the market
 - 4) Stabilize premiums for individuals with pre-existing conditions
 - 5) Increase the choice of health plans

What this means:

- For now, the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) remains the law of the land.
- Discussions continue:
 - Bill with amendment could be called for a vote
 - ACA may be undermined through administrative efforts

Food Assistance for Hungry Students in Vocational Programs (HB 3211)

- **Background:** Rising cost of higher education and scarce financial aid impacts many students and 48 percent of college students report experiencing food insecurity.
- **Legislation:** This bill will ensure SNAP eligibility for low-income adults pursuing a “Perkins Pathway” career and technical education (CTE) certificate or degree at a community college.
- **Potential Impact:** Over 40,000 students could become eligible for SNAP.
- **Update:** *Bill passed out of the Illinois House with a 85-25 vote and now awaits a committee hearing in the Illinois Senate.*

Illinois Budget Stalemate

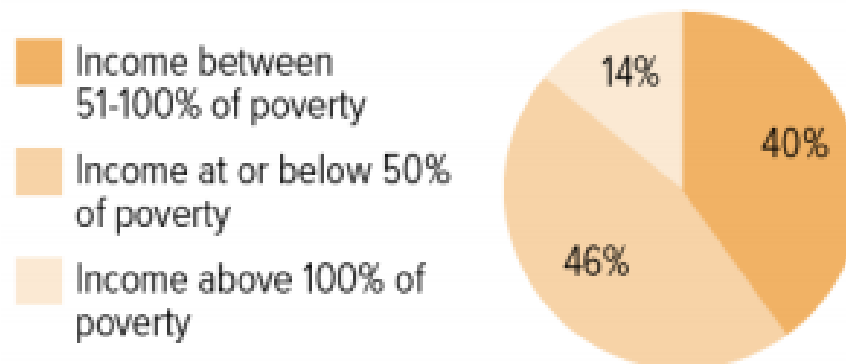
- **Background:** The state of Illinois is on year two of an historic budget stalemate. Neither the state legislature nor the Governor can come to an agreement to pass a state budget.
- **Legislation:** Currently there is a budget lifeline bill (HB 0109) that would provide emergency funding for human services, higher education, community colleges, MAP Grants, HIV/AIDS, Breast and Cervical Cancer Programs, and Violence Prevention initiatives.
- **Impact:** The stalemate has adversely affected social service agencies, many of whom we partner with and serve.

Many **Illinois** households struggle to put food on the table.

- **11.1%** of households face food insecurity or struggle to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.
- **13.6%** of the population lives below the poverty line.
- **18.9%** of children lives below the poverty line.
- **8.5%** of elderly lives below the poverty line.

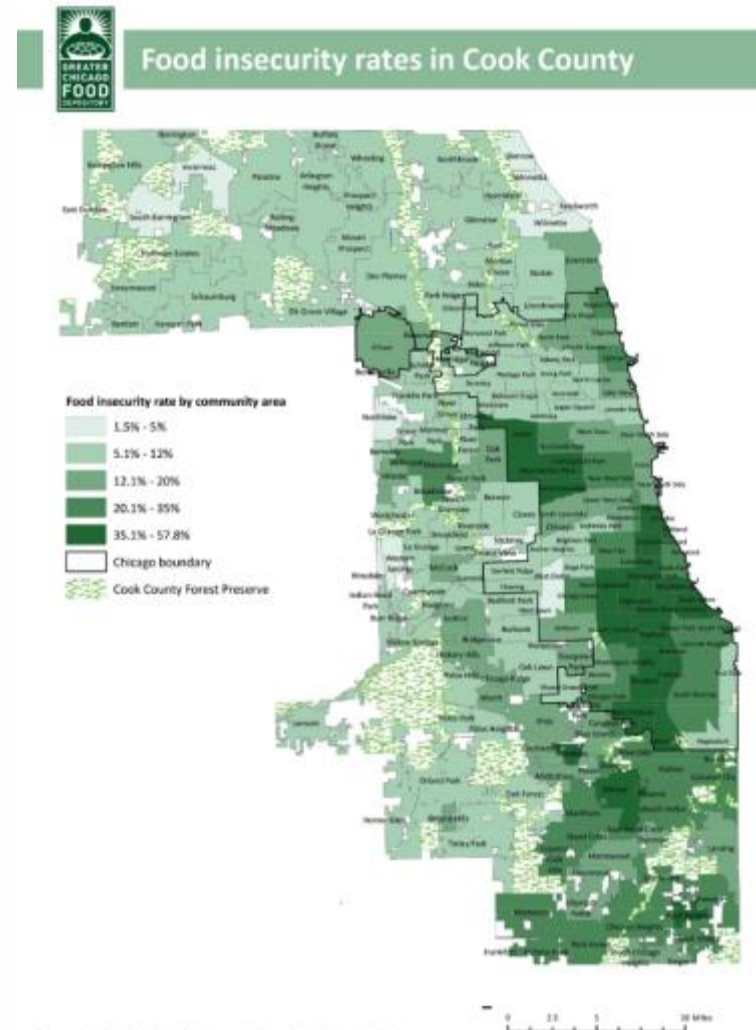
Most SNAP Participants in Illinois Are Poor

Share of participants by household income, FY 2015



THE FACE OF HUNGER IN COOK COUNTY

- **57%** of client households include at least one person who has been employed in the last 12 months.
- **91%** of clients have a roof over their head.
- **39%** of client households include a child.
- **36%** of client households include an older adult.
- **18%** of client households include a current or retired Armed Forces member.



Prepared on 9/16/2016 by the Greater Chicago Food Depository, TM
Source: Gunderson, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. Map the Meal Gap 2016: Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Feeding America, 2016.

WHAT IS SNAP?



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the food stamp program, is the nation's most important anti-hunger program.

Important. Efficient. Effective.



- Provides benefits to low-income individuals and families.
- SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net.
- SNAP has largely eliminated severe hunger and malnutrition in the U.S.

WHO DOES SNAP REACH?



1 in 7

- 1.9 million Illinois residents or 15% of the state's population

Kids

- Almost 65% of SNAP households have children

Workers

- Almost 41% are in working families

Elderly & Disabled

- Almost 28% are in families with members who are elderly and disabled

SNAP KEY FACTS



In Fiscal Year 2016, it reached:

- **1,914,000** Illinois residents, or **15%** of the state population (**1 in 7**)
- **44,219,000** participants in the United States, or **14%** of the total population (**1 in 7**)

ILLINOIS	almost 65% of SNAP participants are in families with children	almost 28% are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities	almost 41% are in working families
NATIONALLY	more than 68% of SNAP participants are in families with children	more than 30% are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities	more than 44% are in working families

SNAP kept **379,000 people out of poverty in Illinois**, including **187,000 children**, per year between 2009 and 2012, on average.

WHAT ARE SNAP BENEFITS?



SNAP targets benefits according to need. Very poor households receive more SNAP benefits than households closer to the poverty line since they need more help affording an adequate diet.

Households receive SNAP benefits on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of the 260,100 authorized retail locations around the country, **including 9,400 in Illinois.**

Average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member:

Fiscal Year 2016

\$132

Average SNAP benefit per person per meal:

\$1.47

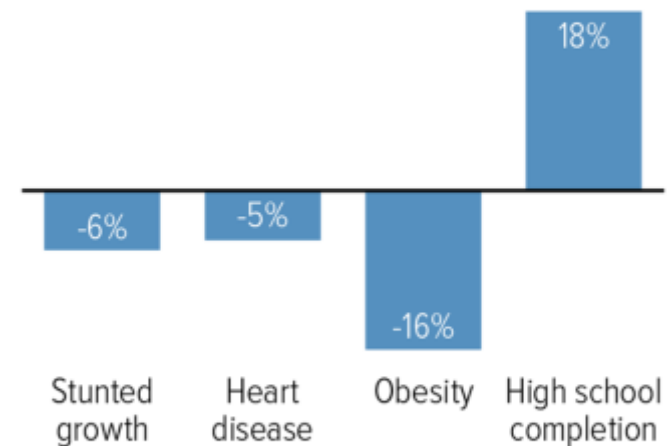
SNAP KEY FACTS: POSITIVE IMPACTS



- SNAP reduces food insecurity 20 to 30%
- Positive impacts on self-reported health status and birth weight
- Consequences of *running out* of benefits - caloric intake falls 10-25%

Children With Access to SNAP Fare Better Years Later

Percentage-point change in outcomes for adults who received SNAP as children, compared to adults who did not receive SNAP as children



Source: Hoynes, Schanzenbach, and Almond, "Long Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net," National Bureau of Economic Research, November 2012.

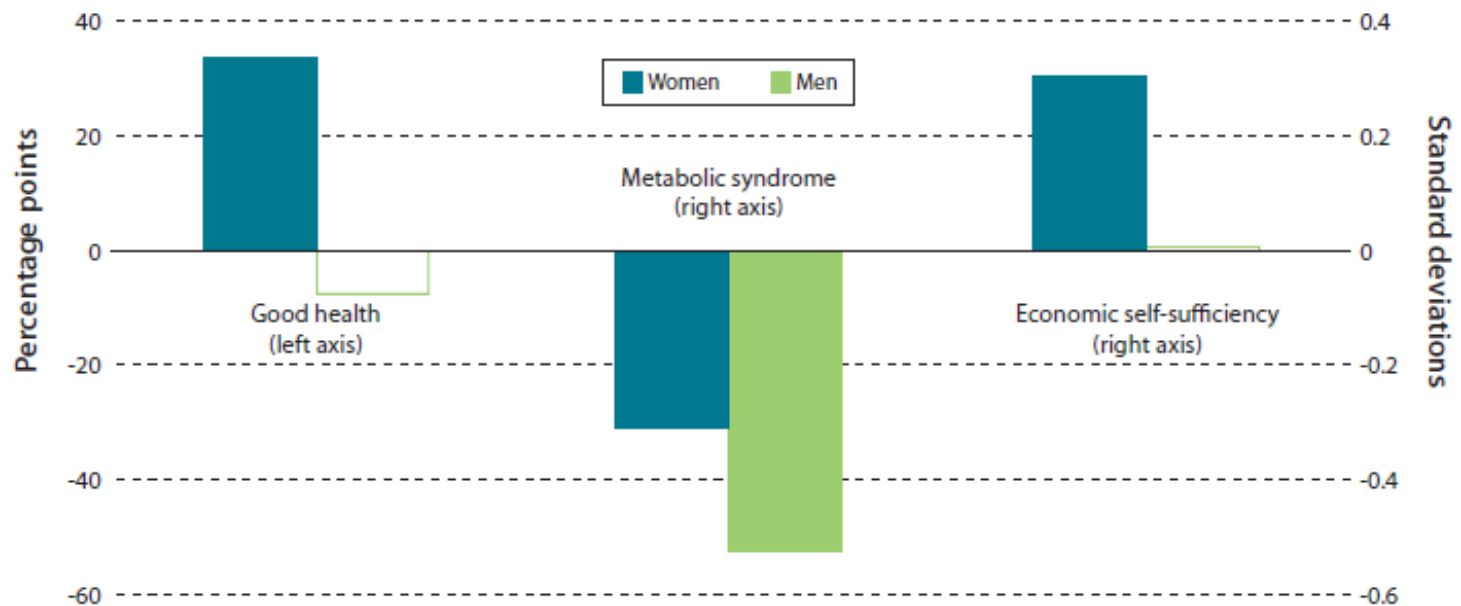
CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

SNAP KEY FACTS: LONG-TERM BENEFITS



Impact of access to food stamps during early life on adult health and economic outcomes

Access to food stamps in early life improves health outcomes in men and women and economic self-sufficiency in women later in life.



Sources: Hoynes, Scharzenbach, and Almond 2016.

Note: Hollowed bars are not statistically significant.

SNAP KEY FACTS: ECONOMIC BENEFITS

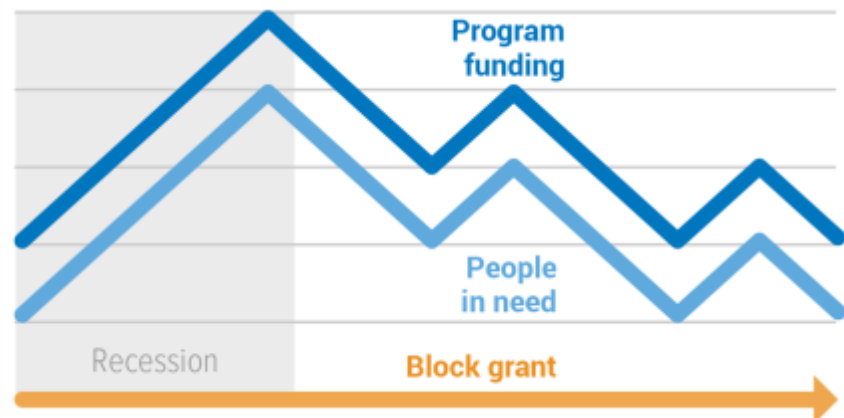


SNAP pumped about **\$3 billion** into the Illinois economy in 2016

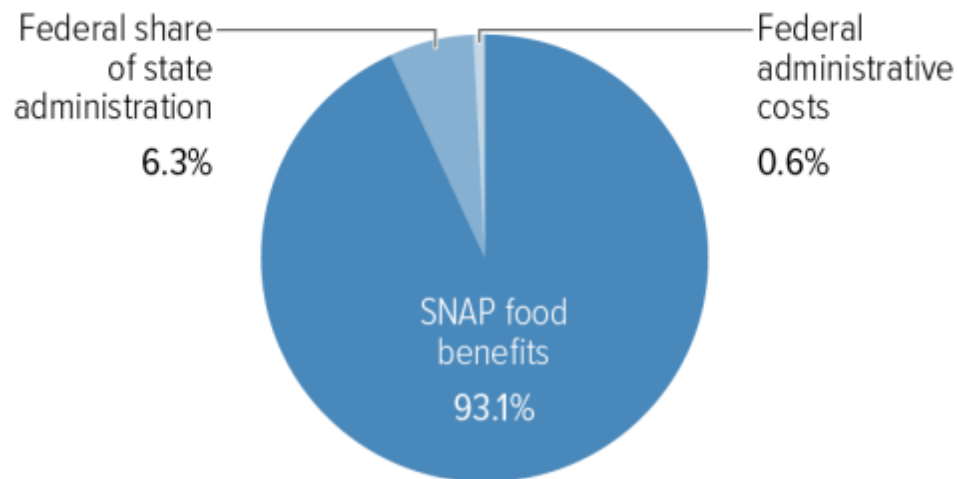
In a weak economy, every **\$1** in SNAP generates **\$1.70** in economic impact

Block Grants = Ending SNAP

- SNAP is an incredibly effective and responsive program
- If SNAP was turned into a block grant, Illinois would receive a fixed amount of SNAP funds regardless of need or the state of the economy
- Block grants would be a bad deal for the state of Illinois – that only gets worse over time



93 Percent of Federal SNAP Spending Is for Food



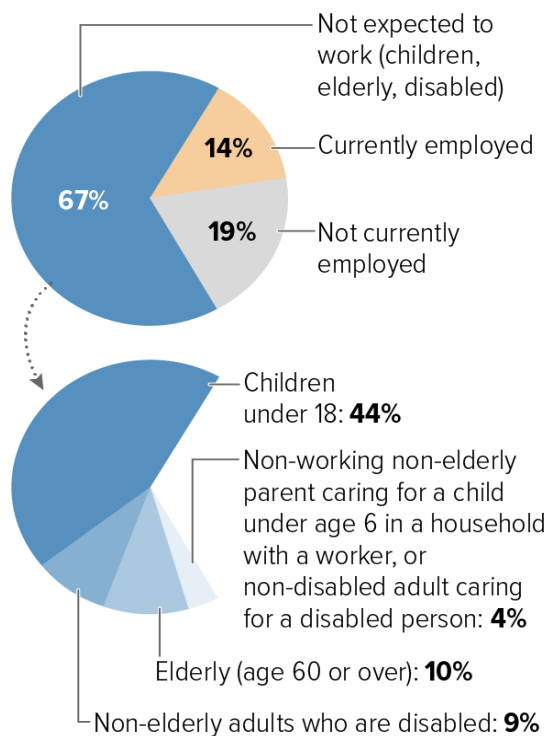
Notes: Chart excludes spending on activities not directly related to SNAP but in the SNAP budget account, such as nutrition assistance in the U.S. territories, support for food banks, and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. The federal share of state administration includes state costs associated with SNAP operations – including eligibility determinations, benefit issuance, and quality control – as well as certain services for SNAP recipients such as employment and training and nutrition education. Federal administrative costs include the mandatory and discretionary federal costs of administering SNAP.

Source: Department of Agriculture, Fiscal Year 2015, obligations as reported in fiscal year 2017 “Explanatory Notes for Committee on Appropriations.”

SNAP KEY FACTS: SNAP AND WORK



4 Out of 5 SNAP Participants Are Not Expected to Work or Are Working



Note: This chart takes out individuals with earnings first, and then looks at those "not expected to work" among individuals without earnings.

Source: CBPP analysis of 2015 SNAP household characteristics data.

The average amount of SNAP benefits isn't enough to become dependent on, which is why the majority of food stamp recipients who can work already do so.

In Illinois, the average SNAP benefits for each household member is:

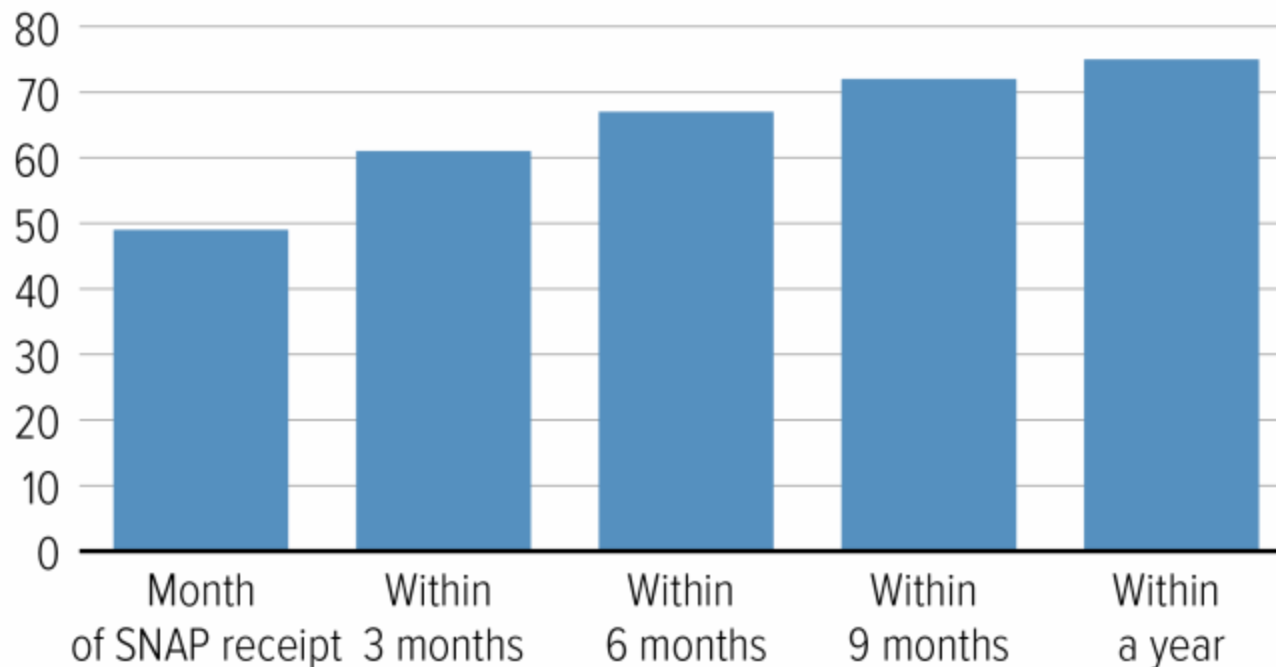
\$132
per month

OR

\$1.47
per meal

Three-quarters of childless adults are employed within a year of receiving SNAP

Share of non-disabled childless adults employed within year of SNAP receipt



Source: CBPP Analysis of 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) panel data

The time limit—a unique and harsh federal policy

- Currently waived statewide; likely return to areas or all of the state in 2018, depending of Governor's decision on waiver requests
- Applies to able-bodied adults without children
- Eligible for nutrition assistance only three months of a three year period unless working or in school 80 hours per month
- No services and supports from state to help find employment must be offered in connection with this

Why does Illinois not currently have a time limit?

- States can choose to waive the time limit when unemployment is high or when there are not enough jobs available.
- States have begun to re-impose the time limit as the economy is improving: 22 states implemented in January of 2016 and a few more reintroduced a time limit in January of this year.
- Illinois has qualified and applied for a waiver since 2009; continues to have a statewide waiver through December 31, 2017.

Illinois State SNAP Fact Sheet

http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_illinois.pdf

Block-Granting Low-Income Programs Leads to Large Funding Declines Over Time, History Shows

<http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/block-granting-low-income-programs-leads-to-large-funding-declines-over-time>

Hamilton Project - 12 Facts About Food Insecurity and SNAP

http://www.hamiltonproject.org/assets/files/twelve_facts_about_food_insecurity_and_snap.pdf

Share some of the info you learned today about SNAP with your friends and colleagues

Make sure you're signed up to receive our emails:

- Visit <https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org>

Learn who your elected officials are:

- Visit <https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/advocacy/> and click 'Find Elected Officials'

Sign-up to be a Champion Advocate!

- Visit <https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/advocacy/> and click 'Sign Up Now'

VOICE: HUNGER WALK



32nd Annual Hunger Walk

- Date: **Saturday, September 16, 2017**
- Location: **Jackson Park**
- **Largest** one-day anti-hunger event
- Last year's event brought in nearly **12,000** participants





Thank you