



Greater Chicago Food Depository 2017 Advocacy Agenda

In alignment with our **2020 strategic plan “Nourishing Our Community”**, the Food Depository’s vision is that **everyone in our community will have access to nutritious food to live stable, healthy lives. We believe** the path to a healthy, hunger-free community compels us to engage and educate a diverse network of stakeholders. We must raise awareness of the everyday presence of hunger among our neighbors and put forward solutions that inspire our community to action and our supporters to continue to invest in us. **We believe we can end hunger through our collective action.**

Our collective action to end hunger is rooted in the Food Depository’s advocacy agenda in support of three broad goals:

- Goal 1: Expand access to nutritious food
- Goal 2: Strengthen and encourage community-based responses to ending hunger
- Goal 3: Inspire and engage our community to lift its collective voice to end hunger

Our Strategic Approach: Advance an advocacy agenda to increase food access and protect the nutrition safety net and other programs critical for low-income individuals and families.

- In collaboration with partners, champion legislation that strengthens and increases access to Federal, State and local food safety nets and other anti-hunger initiatives.
 - Set a focused policy agenda, while continuing to assess the mix of anti-hunger and anti-poverty solutions needed to end hunger
- Expand and strengthen our network of champion advocates.
 - Build cross sector coalitions of organizations who share our values to help vulnerable communities
 - Educate wide cross-section of stakeholders on the impacts of food insecurity through data, research, stories and experiential learning
 - Inspire individual local, state and Federal leaders to become champions to end hunger
- Maintain strong, high-integrity leadership in our advocacy efforts.

Year 1 Priorities

Federal Government

- Support full funding for a Farm Bill that supports vital nutrition programs and increases access to healthy food and ensure proper implementation after passage.
- Champion a Federal Child Nutrition Act that protects and strengthens programs serving food insecure children.
- Maintain funding levels for vital hunger relief programs including SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), WIC, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) 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.
- Partner with and support the work of statewide coalitions and committees (IL Poverty Commission, HSC Steering Committee, Governor’s Children’s Cabinet) whose actions address the root causes of hunger.
- Improve participation in SNAP and WIC through the enactment of policies that increase access and decrease administrative burden.



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- Improve the state administration of TEFAP to reduce administrative burdens and improve data quality.
- Protect and expand Illinois' utilization of 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

- Expedite effective and efficient implementation of alternative breakfast models with the goal to increase participation across Cook County.
- Explore opportunities for Cook County government to further invest in and support addressing hunger in our communities.
- Participate in implementation of the Healthy Chicago 2.0 plan and associated Recipe for Healthy Spaces strategy.
- Support the expansion of urban and local agriculture initiatives that benefit low-income families and work to alleviate hunger.
- 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 officials and other government leaders that you have a strong relationship with at all levels.
- Participate in an in-district meeting or tour GCFD with your elected representative.
- Attend Hunger Action Month Volunteer Day for Elected Officials at the Food Depository.
- Participate in the 2017 Anti-Hunger Policy Conference and Lobby Day (Washington, DC) and the Illinois Hunger Summit and Lobby Day (Springfield, IL).