

Housekeeping Notes

Once you have joined the webinar, your audio will be muted. You will be able to hear the presenters but not speak to other participants during the call.

At the conclusion of the presentation there will be time for questions & answers. Please use the messaging box to ask your questions during the presentation.

The webinar will begin momentarily. Thanks for joining!



Greater Chicago Food Depository

Public Policy and Advocacy

October 24, 2017 | Legislative Webinar, Nutrition Policy

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- 1. Federal Policy Updates**
 - A. House Budget**
 - B. Senate Budget**
 - C. Farm Bill**
- 2. State Policy Updates**
 - A. College Hunger**
 - B. SNAP Time-Limit Waiver**
- 3. Nutrition Policy**
 - A. Overview & Importance**
 - B. Agency Promotion**
 - C. Current & Future Steps**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: MONITORING FEDERAL & STATE POLICY

Anthony Alfano

Public Policy & Advocacy Coordinator

The U.S. House of Representatives passed its FY2018 Budget Blueprint and Concurrent Resolution, on October 5th, 2017.

The budget includes deep cuts to vital programs that prevent hunger in our community.

- The budget blueprint recommends additional work requirements for SNAP recipients and block granting SNAP funding to the states.
 - These measures could cut SNAP funding by **\$150 billion over the next decade** and would create more need at a time when **42 million Americans** are at risk of hunger.
 - Including more than **1.5 million in Illinois**
- The House's Concurrent Resolution includes instructions for the House Agriculture Committee to submit changes in laws to reduce the federal deficit by **\$10 billion** over the next decade.

The U.S. Senate passed its FY2018 Budget measure on October 18th, 2017.

The budget paves the way for major tax-reform legislation.

While details are not final, it does include provisions that would result in decreased charitable giving each year and would add trillions of dollars to the national debt.

The Senate budget resolution would reduce government revenues significantly and increase long-term pressure to substantially cut programs like SNAP, Medicaid and others important to our network and those we serve.

**Current Farm Bill is set to expire in September, 2018.
Includes nutrition title that funds SNAP, TEFAP, and other federal anti-hunger programs.**

As the budget resolution process unfolds in the House and Senate, agriculture leaders have raised the specter of a final resolution without any reconciliation instructions to the agriculture committee.

Both Senate Ag Committee Chair Pat Roberts (R-KS) and House Ag Committee Chair Mike Conaway (R-TX) have indicated that they anticipate writing the 2018 farm bill with the current funding baseline, meaning no cuts through the budget resolution.

The House continues to work on draft language, with no specific timeline for releasing it.

Food Assistance for Hungry Students in Vocational Programs (SB 351)

- **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.
- Governor Rauner supported the key provision extending SNAP eligibility to these students, but ultimately issued an amendatory veto to the bill, based on a second provision, which established a process to identify and notify students who may be eligible for SNAP.
- As such, the College Hunger Bill language will be reintroduced during the upcoming veto session as **SB 351** using the consensus language that both the legislature and the governor’s office have agreed to. SB 351 is scheduled to have a committee hearing in the Senate on Tuesday, 10/24 (**TODAY**).

Our advocacy efforts were successful!

Governor Rauner submitted the ABAWD waiver & the USDA has already approved it.

As a result, an estimated 260,000 individuals classified as “able-bodied adults without dependents” or ABAWDs will be able to continue to receive SNAP benefits.



NUTRITION POLICY: PROMOTING NUTRITION ACROSS OUR NETWORK

Nyahne Bergeron, MPH

Health and Nutrition Community Program Manager

According to a 2014 Hunger in America study, a **significant number of GCFD clients in Cook County** are living with health challenges:

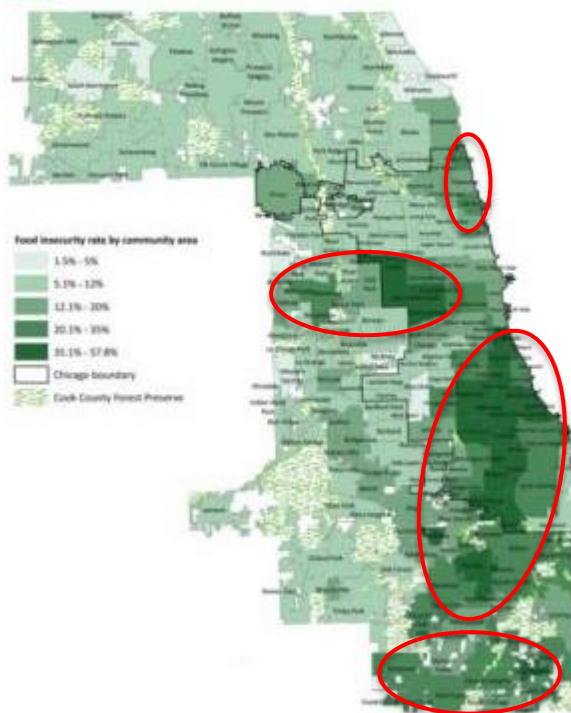
- **60%** of households include someone with **high blood pressure**
- **35%** of households include someone with **diabetes**
- **44%** of clients consider themselves in **fair or poor health**
- **73%** of clients **knowingly purchase inexpensive, unhealthy foods** to make ends meet



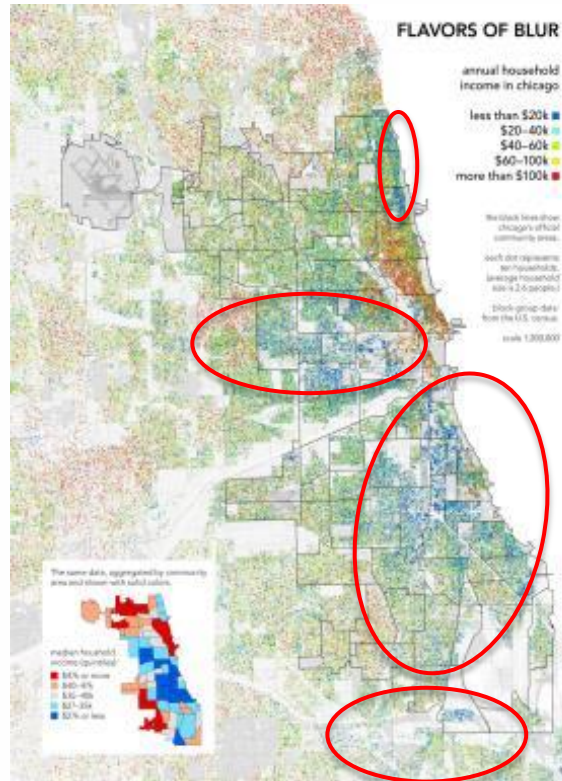
HEALTH AND HUNGER: COOK COUNTY



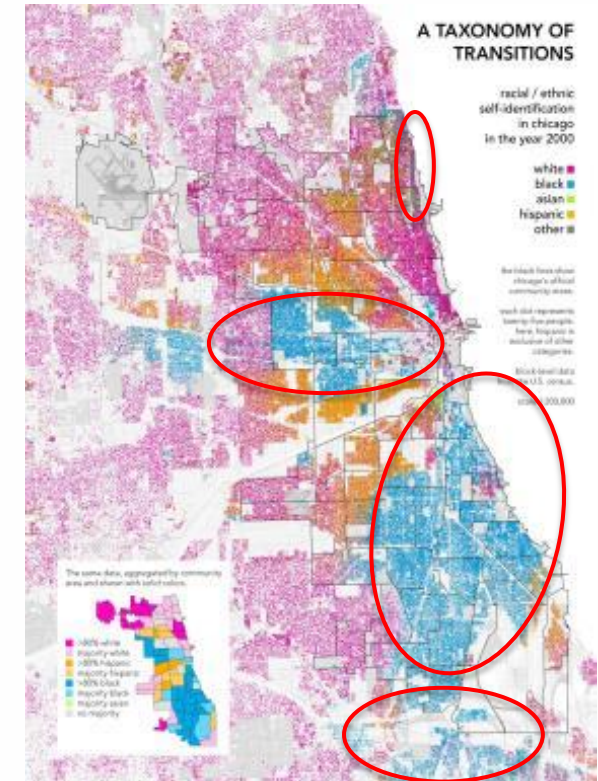
Food insecurity rates in Cook County



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- Food insecurity is associated with a host of **adverse and costly health outcomes** for all age groups.
- Individuals faced with food insecurity are often burdened with **diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, and depression**, and children experience **learning and behavioral problems** as a result.



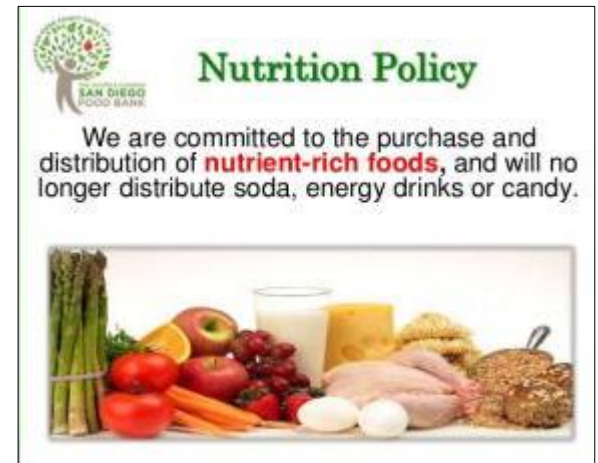
- Food banks have begun to rethink the way they provide food to communities and have started to encourage healthy dietary practices.
- Nutrition promotion methods include:
 - providing **more fresh produce and healthier shelf-stable items** with less salt, fat, and sugar
 - **turning away** sweetened beverages, candy, and processed baked good donations
 - developing **nutrition education programming** for pantries and clients



This shift to healthy dietary practices is reinforced through the **development of a comprehensive nutrition policy**.

Nutrition Policy: A set of external facing guidelines that outline a nutrition framework followed by pantries to:

- Promote internal and external awareness of nutritious foods
- Inform food procurement practices
- Establish a commitment to the health and well-being of clients



Nutrition policy serves to:

- Demonstrate commitment to **creating healthier communities** for our clients through the provision of nutritious foods
- Educate donors and vendors on **acceptable food donations**
- Guide **food purchasing and procurement**
- Inform **nutrition education strategies** and **community programs**
- Inform partner agencies of **healthy food available** through the bank
- Enable partner agencies to make **healthier and more nutritious food choices**

Our fundamental mission is focused on ending hunger.

- Providing food for hungry people while striving to end hunger, is made by an **environment that supports health across populations.**
- **Good nutrition** is associated with the **prevention of chronic disease.**
- **Policy, systems, and environmental changes** which make healthy choices easy and accessible have the **greatest public health impact.**



Outlines **three key pillars** that GCFD will strive toward over the next four years:

- Expanding **access to nutritious food (Food)**
- **Partnering with and strengthening community-based responses to hunger and its root causes (Community)**
- Inspiring and engaging our community to **lift its collective voice to end hunger (Voice)**



From a food sourcing perspective we prioritize the following as non-official ‘healthy option best practices’:

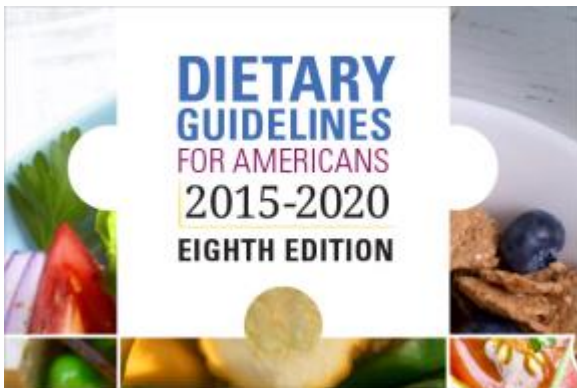
- Canned products with light syrup, fruit juice or water only
 - We do not purchase canned products with heavy syrup
 - Heavy syrup is accepted as a donation
- Corporate donations of soda, candy or sweetened baked goods are not accepted. Occasionally, dessert and snack items are collected via Food Rescue.

Items that we focus on purchasing as much as possible:

- Low sodium and no salt
- Low fat
- Low cholesterol
- Brown rice, whole wheat, and multigrain

Nutrition Frameworks

- Foods 2 Encourage (F2E)
- USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- USDA MyPlate
- Choose Healthy Options Program (CHOP)



- Research nutrition policy development, implementation at other food banks
- Participate in nutrition policy training
- Perform evaluation of nutrition policy among member agencies
- Perform internal evaluation of nutrition policy ideas, beliefs
- Create internal policy workgroup



QUESTIONS?

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP



**Share the info from
today's webinar with
your friends &
colleagues.**

**Sign-up to be a Champion
Advocate!**

Visit [https://www.chicagos
foodbank.org/advocacy](https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/advocacy)

Share what you learned today on
social media: **#GCFDPublicPolicy**

**Apply to the Anti-Hunger Policy
Conference in D.C.**



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Thank you