



OUR MISSION IS TO END HUNGER

We believe food is a basic human right. To achieve our mission, we work in partnership with a network of community-based organizations and individuals. Together, we connect our neighbors with healthy food, lift our voices and advance solutions that address the root causes of hunger - poverty, systemic inequity, and structural racism.

Together we are greater. **Together, we can end hunger.**

A UNITED COMMUNITY EFFORT TO SERVE ANYONE WHO NEEDS FOOD

The Food Depository is the food bank serving all of Chicago and Cook County. We are at the center of a network of more than 800 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other programs. These programs provide food where it's most needed. We also address the root causes of hunger. Public benefits outreach and paid job training programs offer support for our neighbors to overcome hunger and poverty.

The Food Depository distributed the equivalent of 76 million meals to people at risk of hunger during fiscal year 2023. We also submitted more than 3,700 benefit applications, generating \$9.5 million in local economic impact.

The Food Depository is a member of the Feeding America national network of food banks.



The Food Depository serves anyone in need through a network of 800 partners and programs, while advancing solutions to the root causes of hunger - poverty, systemic inequity, and structural racism.

BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE FOOD LANDSCAPE

The Food Depository continues responding to elevated need in the wake of historic inflation and the rollback of federal nutrition programs. Food insecurity is still surpassing pre-pandemic levels. As the hunger crisis continues, visits to food pantries across our network are higher than they were in 2022. Serving our community is more than the millions of pounds of food we provide every week. It's about addressing the root causes of hunger and building a food landscape that is equitable for all. As part of our ongoing response, we're strengthening our existing network and improving food access by investing in communities disproportionately affected by food insecurity, poverty and decades of disinvestment. We are working to create a community where everyone has equitable access to food and opportunities to thrive.



An estimated 1 in 5 households in the Chicago area are food insecure. Families with children and communities of color are most impacted.



FOOD PURCHASING

ENSURING A ROBUST SUPPLY OF HEALTHY FOOD WHILE INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

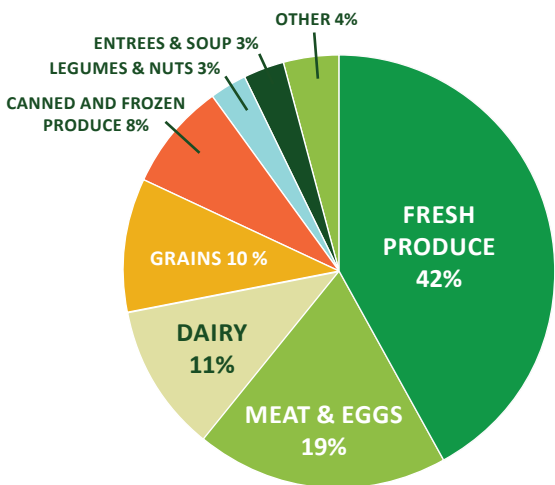
The Greater Chicago Food Depository supplies a network of more than 800 partners and programs across Chicago and Cook County, including food pantries, meal programs, mobile distributions, and locations that serve children, students, older adults and veterans.

In fiscal-year 2023-2024, the Food Depository plans to distribute more than 100 million pounds of food across our network - approximately half of which will be purchased. The remainder of our food supply comes from federal government programs, food industry donations and retail food rescue. Purchasing is essential to ensure a robust supply of healthy and culturally-affirming food is available for anyone who needs assistance.

When the Food Depository purchases food, we are able to maximize the impact of donor dollars by leveraging our scale and relationships. At the same time, we are committed to living our values and addressing the root causes of hunger in the ways we purchase food.

- The Food Depository has a target minimum 35% spend with diverse owned businesses and underrepresented groups.
- We pursue opportunities to purchase culturally relevant foods from minority-owned vendors.
- Partnerships with hyper-local urban farms help create jobs and economic opportunity.
- Non-profit purchasing partnerships allow us to efficiently buy specific in-demand items including eggs and diapers.

FOOD PURCHASING BY CATEGORY



100M

pounds of food - the equivalent of 84 million meals - must be sourced for distribution this fiscal year.

50%

of all food we distribute this year will be purchased. Fresh produce is the largest category at 42%, followed by protein and dairy.

35%

of dollars, at minimum, will be spent with diverse-owned businesses and underrepresented groups.



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COMMUNITY IMPACT

A HYPER-LOCAL, EQUITY-DRIVEN APPROACH TO ENDING HUNGER

The Greater Chicago Food Depository is part of a united community effort to bring food to our neighbors. We act as the hub for a network of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and mobile responses in neighborhoods across Chicago and Cook County. We are committed to serving everyone in need of food today.

Food distribution is one part of the Food Depository's mission. We are committed to ending hunger's root causes - poverty, systemic inequity and structural racism. We believe that solutions to hunger must be tailored to the specific needs of communities and populations. Flexible, holistic strategies should be guided by community voices, equity and respect.

This year, the Food Depository's community impact department is working with a new framework - one that empowers us to deliver more effectively on our mission. The new approach is reorganized into three key functions:

- Neighbor services: Connects people with direct services, including benefits outreach, workforce development and prepared meals.
- Partnership services & support: Manages support and logistics for our partner network, provides training for programs, shares best practices and compliance.
- Strategic relationships & community planning: Develops the connectivity we need to mobilize and address the root causes, centers our strategies in community voice.

PURSuing FOOD EQUITY

Addressing hunger and its root causes means removing systemic inequities that exist in Chicago and Cook County. These inequities have long left certain groups – particularly Black and Latino households as well as other historically marginalized communities – at disproportionate risk of poverty and food insecurity. To change this story and help expand food access, the Food Depository has distributed investments of over \$14 million to assist food pantry partners already serving in these areas and to open new spaces where people can receive food, access benefits and find other needed resources.

100%

of Food Depository partners receive food at no cost, allowing them to invest in other services.

52%

of all food was distributed to high priority communities facing the highest rates of food insecurity and historic disinvestments.

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OLDER ADULT PROGRAMS

SENIOR HUNGER EXPECTED TO RISE

According to Feeding America, an estimated 8% of seniors in the Chicago area are food insecure. As the Baby Boomer generation ages, the number of older adults in need of food assistance will continue to grow. While people age, proper nutrition becomes more essential to their health.

BRINGING HEALTHY OPTIONS TO OLDER ADULTS

The Food Depository partners with more than 100 senior housing facilities to offer older adult markets. These sites receive deliveries of fresh produce and groceries for residents. Volunteers at the sites deliver bags of food directly to residents' doorsteps when needed.

The Food Depository is also a local provider of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), a program of the United States Department of Agriculture. Under CSFP, the Food Depository packs and delivers 6,000 boxes of groceries monthly to qualifying older adults at residential buildings and food pantries.

HOME DELIVERED MEALS FOR SENIORS

Older adults are a priority population for the Food Depository's expansion of prepared meal programming. As we plan for the opening of our new production kitchen in 2024, the Food Depository team has been piloting partnerships with organizations that provide home care for seniors in Cook County suburbs. Meals prepared from scratch in the Food Depository's training kitchen are delivered by partner organizations to the homes of qualifying seniors.

When the new meal production kitchen opens in 2024, the Food Depository plans to increase the availability of healthy prepared meals for older adults through home delivery partnerships and neighborhood food pantries.



100+

senior housing facilities receive fresh produce and groceries from the Food Depository every month.

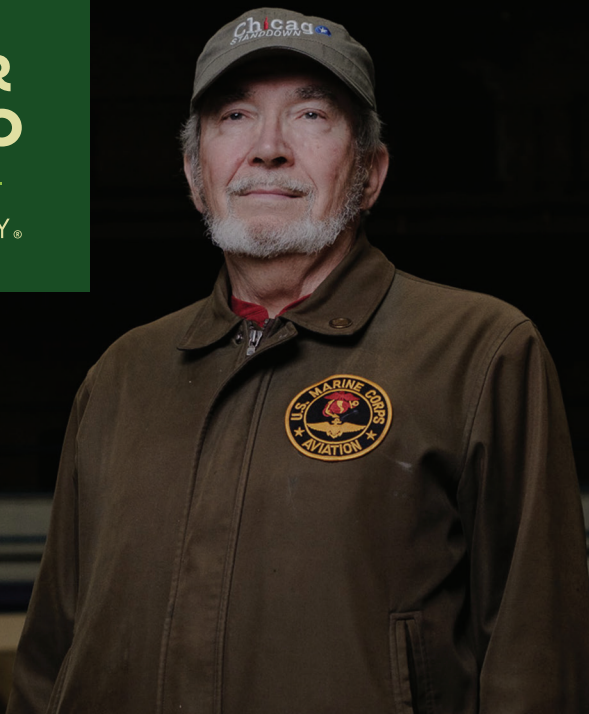


OLDER ADULT MARKET CLIENT

"This means I eat. These food deliveries show me that people still care."



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VETERAN PROGRAMS

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS WHO SERVED US

According to US Census Bureau data, more than 12,000 veterans in Cook County live below the poverty line. Since 2013, the Greater Chicago Food Depository has partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to offer food distributions for people who served in the armed forces.

VA FOOD PANTRIES PROVIDE NATIONAL MODEL

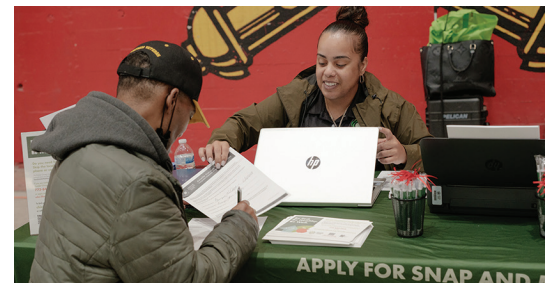
In 2013, the Food Depository and Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago partnered to open a first-of-its-kind food pantry for veterans in a VA facility. In 2014, the Food Depository and Hines VA Hospital opened a weekly food pantry in Cook County's western suburbs. In addition to free groceries, veterans served at these sites can get connected to nutrition benefits and other services.

The Food Depository's groundbreaking partnership with Jesse Brown VA and Hines VA was quickly recognized as a national model for other Feeding America food banks and VA facilities to replicate.

The food pantry at Hines VA serves more than 100 veteran households per week. The Jesse Brown VA food pantry has been on pause since COVID but plans to reopen in the near future.

STAND DOWN EVENTS FOR VETERANS

Twice per year, the Food Depository joins a coalition of organizations and service providers at Veteran Stand Down events. Hosted at local armory buildings, Stand Down events are resource fairs for veterans - many of whom are experiencing homelessness. The Food Depository serves meals and distributes bags of groceries, while our benefits outreach team helps veterans apply for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and Medicaid.



100+

veteran households are served each week at the Hines VA Hospital food pantry. In addition to groceries, veterans are connected to benefits.



VA FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER

"There isn't a one (veteran) that isn't appreciative."



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CHILD AND STUDENT PROGRAMS

HEALTHY FOOD TO LIVE, LEARN AND PLAY

Youth need nutritious food to grow, learn and thrive, but food insecurity affects 1 in 4 households with children. The negative outcomes of child hunger are well documented and severe - impacting physical health, cognitive development and academic achievement. The Food Depository works year-round with community organizations, schools and federal programs to ensure children have access to meals in safe, nurturing environments.

FOOD ACCESS IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Healthy Student Markets, food distributions in schools, provide free groceries for families with children. By partnering with schools in priority communities, the Food Depository makes it convenient for working parents on limited incomes to bring home fresh produce and other healthy food. This year, we plan to partner with as many as 30 schools across Chicago and Cook County.

College students are also at increased risk of hunger - as many as 44% of City College of Chicago students report experiencing food insecurity. The Food Depository partners with 14 local colleges and universities, including all City College campuses, to offer food pantries for students.

AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

When school is out, children are at greatest risk of hunger. The Food Depository partners with more than 260 community organizations and sites to provide thousands of healthy meals for children after-school and during the summer. Meals are purchased by the Food Depository from certified minority-and-women owned businesses and reimbursed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

NO KID HUNGRY ILLINOIS

The Food Depository is a lead partner with the No Kid Hungry Illinois campaign to promote participation in and expansion of critical child nutrition programs. Founded by the Illinois Commission to End Hunger and Share Our Strength, this campaign improves children's and teens' access to healthy food across Illinois.

365,000

MEALS FOR CHILDREN

In partnership with 200 community organizations, the Food Depository distributed more than 365,000 meals to children in fiscal year 2023.



1 IN 4

households with children in the Chicago Metro area are food insecure. By partnering with schools and community sites, we reach kids and their families with meals and healthy groceries.



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PREPARED MEAL PROGRAMS

EXPANDING TO MEET A GROWING NEED

Healthy prepared meals are an incredible resource for older adults, people with disabilities, individuals on medically tailored diets and other groups facing increased risk of hunger. In 2022, the Greater Chicago Food Depository broke ground on a facility expansion that will dramatically increase our capacity to create and distribute prepared meals. As the kitchen nears opening in early 2024, our team has been piloting processes and strategies to provide meals for populations who benefit from them most.

SCRATCH-MADE MEALS PREPARED DAILY

When the Food Depository's new kitchen is fully operational, our team will have the capacity to produce up to 5,000 scratch-made meals per day, including:

- **Home delivered meals** for older adults and people with disabilities.
- **Medically-tailored meals** for people with chronic health conditions.
- **Frozen meals** for individuals and families who visit food pantries.
- **Meals for crisis response**, including hot congregate style meals for shelters housing asylum-seeking new arrivals.

MEAL PURCHASING TO CREATE OPPORTUNITY

The Food Depository's prepared meal strategy also includes purchasing healthy prepared meals from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) owned businesses. This allows us to supply up to 5,000 additional meals per day while creating jobs and economic impact for populations and neighborhoods that have endured historic disinvestment.

For example, the Food Depository contracts with caterers and restaurants on the West Side to supply meals for opportunity youth (ages 16-24 disconnected from school and the workforce) who are participating in programs at community organizations. With healthy meals to count on, opportunity youth can focus on their future success.



10K MEALS

per day will be supplied in the near future - combining the output of our new kitchen with meals purchased through minority-owned businesses.



PREPARED MEAL RECIPIENT

"These meals have been a lifesaver for me and my seven foster children."