



**GREATER
CHICAGO
— FOOD —
DEPOSITORY®**

ABOUT US

FROM HUNGRY TO HOPEFUL™

WE BELIEVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY STARTS WITH FOOD

The Greater Chicago Food Depository is Chicago's food bank. We believe that food is a basic human right. Every year, we provide food and hope to hundreds of thousands of individuals and families across Chicago and Cook County.

A UNITED COMMUNITY EFFORT TO DELIVER FOOD AND HOPE

The Food Depository is part of a united community effort working to bring food, dignity and hope to our Cook County neighbors. We are at the center of a network of more than 700 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 more than 77 million meals to people in need across Cook County during fiscal year 2022 – a more than 25% increase over pre-pandemic levels. By taking hunger off the table, we enable families to focus on other priorities like education, growth and security.



Located on Chicago's Southwest Side, the Food Depository supplies a network of food pantries and programs across Cook County.

BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE FOOD LANDSCAPE

The Food Depository continues to respond to the elevated need caused by COVID-19 amid rising food prices and inflation, with food insecurity still surpassing pre-pandemic levels. As the hunger crisis continues, many people turn to our network of food pantries for the first time in their lives. But serving our community is more than just the number of meals we provide. 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. While the effects of the pandemic will linger for years to come, our network is working to ensure we emerge as a stronger and more equitable community.



Hundreds of thousands of people in Cook County face hunger every day. But even one is too many. We must change this reality.



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PROGRAMS & SERVICES

PROVIDING NOURISHING FOOD AND LASTING SOLUTIONS TO HUNGER

The Greater Chicago Food Depository is part of a united community effort to bring food to our neighbors. We serve as the hub for a network of food pantries, meal programs, shelters and mobile responses in neighborhoods across Chicago and Cook County. Together, we deliver food for today and hope for the future.

Food distribution is one part of the Food Depository's mission. We also work to end hunger's root causes and offer tailored approaches to address hunger and poverty for people of all ages and backgrounds.

- Benefits Outreach helps people apply and recertify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid benefits.
- Paid job training prepares unemployed and underemployed adults for in-demand careers in hospitality and supply chain industries.
- Partnerships with healthcare providers screen patients for food insecurity and connect them to nutritious, fresh food.
- Programs meet people where they are with food and connections to resources.
 - Older Adult Markets are located at convenient, accessible sites like senior centers.
 - Veterans' food pantries at VA medical centers provide convenient access to food in an affirming environment.
 - Students receive food to focus and succeed through partnerships with schools, colleges and community organizations.

PURSUING FOOD EQUITY

Addressing hunger and its root causes means removing systemic inequities that exist in Chicago and Cook County. These inequities have long put certain groups – particularly Black and Brown 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 more than \$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.

77.3M
60%

meals provided during our last fiscal year – a 25% increase compared to pre-pandemic times.

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

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JOB TRAINING

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT REMOVES BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

Joblessness and food insecurity go hand in hand. The Food Depository addresses this cause of hunger with our workforce development programs.

Our free programs offer paid hospitality and supply chain career path training to adults who are unemployed or underemployed.

THE FIRST STEP IN A SUSTAINABLE CAREER

Our programs prepare students for jobs that are in-demand right now. In addition to providing students with a hybrid of in-person and virtual specialized instruction, our curriculum includes life skills training in topics like resume development and job interview skills.

All programs provide paid training and completion bonuses. Our free job training programs include:

- **Hospitality** training prepares students for careers in hospitality and customer service industries
- Our **Certified Logistics Associate** program provides training for higher-wage jobs in the competitive warehouse, logistics and supply chain industries.
- Our **Warehouse Bridge** program prepares students for a career in the supply chain industry – such as: Material handler, Warehouse Associate, Shipping/Receiving Clerk and Stocker/Order Picker.

PARTICIPATE OR PARTNER

Applications to participate are available online. Businesses and individuals can also support our workforce development programs as employment partners, mentors, guest instructors and more. Call 773-843-5414 or visit the site below.

chicagosfoodbank.org/job-training



FREE + PAID

job training for unemployed and underemployed adults living in Cook County.

CUSTOMER SERVICE GRADUATE

"This class was very encouraging, and it has pushed me to want more in life."

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YOUTH PROGRAMS

HEALTHY FOOD TO LIVE, LEARN AND PLAY

Youth need nutritious food to grow, learn and thrive. When children and teens don't have to worry about food, they have the chance to achieve their dreams. Hunger among families has soared during the pandemic. The Food Depository works with partners to offer meals with more flexibility in safe environments.

FOOD ACCESS IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Healthy Student Markets, client-choice food distributions in schools, provide food to families with children. The program began as a partnership with Chicago Public Schools in 2010 and has grown to support schools across Cook County.

Since 2014, the Food Depository has partnered with the City Colleges of Chicago and other local colleges and universities to provide food access on campuses.

AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

Kids Cafe® is a national initiative of Feeding America administered locally by the Food Depository. Since 1993, the Food Depository has partnered with after-school programs to provide meals in a safe, nurturing environment. Meals are reimbursed by the Child and Adult Care Food Program of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

During the summer, children and teens who receive free and reduced-price meals at school often lack access to nutritious food. Summer meal sites aim to reach young people in convenient neighborhood locations. Summer meals are reimbursed by the Summer Food Service Program of the USDA.

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.



379,000

MEALS FOR CHILDREN

In partnership with 201 community organizations, the Food Depository distributed more than 379,000 meals to children in fiscal year 2022.

1 IN 4

Chicago households with children experience food insecurity as a result of rising food costs and the continued impact of the pandemic.



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HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

THE CHALLENGE

Food insecurity is associated with adverse and costly health outcomes. For many people we serve, the stress of food insecurity is coupled with the cost of diabetes, hypertension and obesity. Access to healthy food can have a significant influence on quality of life.

By increasing access to healthy food options, we can prevent or mitigate diet-related diseases. The Food Depository works with community clinics, hospitals and health systems to identify food insecure patients and connect them with fresh produce, benefits and other resources to support their health and well-being.

WE BELIEVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY STARTS WITH FOOD

The Food Depository's partnerships build a bridge between preventative health care, nutrition education and quality food. In collaboration with our health care partners including Cook County Health, ACCESS Community Health Network, Chicago Department of Public Health and more, we develop customized nutrition access strategies to best fit the needs of the provider and the patient.

- Food insecurity screenings help health center staff screen patients and provide them with information, education, referrals and resources.
- Our mobile Fresh Truck markets visit community clinics. Patients can redeem vouchers written by their healthcare providers for fresh produce, similar to prescriptions.
- Pop-up hospital food pantries provide produce, nutrition education and food demos from dietitians and other service providers.
- We collaborated with two health partners to pilot home delivered frozen meals for a cohort of high risk, food insecure patients. The Food Depository is growing our capacity to distribute even more nutritious and medically-tailored prepared meals in the future.



23

HEALTH CARE PARTNERS

We partner with 23 community clinics, hospitals and health systems to increase patients' access to healthy food and improve quality of life.

127,320

prepared meals distributed in fiscal year 2022 for older adults, health partners and food access partners.