

Greater Chicago Food Depository



About Us

The Greater Chicago Food Depository, Chicago's food bank, is a nonprofit food distribution and training center providing food for hungry people while striving to end hunger in our community. The Food Depository, founded in 1979, makes a daily impact across Cook County with a network of 700 pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, mobile programs, children's programs, older adult programs and innovative responses that address the root causes of hunger. Last year, the Food Depository distributed nearly 72 million pounds of shelf-stable food, fresh produce, dairy products and meat, the equivalent of 164,000 meals every day.

The Food Depository has a range of targeted distribution strategies designed to meet the range of needs for children, families and older adults in Cook County. The Food Depository's children's programs ensure that youth in Cook County have access to nutritious food year-round through market-style distributions in schools, and through weekend, after-school and summer meal programs.



The Food Depository serves the needs of older adults, a growing and vulnerable population, by providing a meal service and market-style distribution of healthy foods that meet the dietary needs of this population. In order to address the root causes of hunger, the Food Depository offers a 14-week program that enables adults to break the cycle of poverty through training and career development in the foodservice industry. With over 13,000 veterans in Cook County living below the poverty line, the Food Depository's pantries at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital provides assistance at a time of pressing need. The Food Depository also distributes hot meals to veterans at Stand Downs and has expanded veterans SNAP Outreach efforts.

The Need in Our Community

812,000



812,000 of our neighbors receive food from the Food Depository's member agency grocery or meal programs annually.

39%



39% of client households include at least one child under the age of 18.

18%



18% of client households include at least one person who has served or is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

36%



36% of client households include at least one person over the age of 60.

72,000,000



Nearly 72 million pounds of food were distributed in 2016-2017 to those in need all across Cook County.

232,100



232,100 households are served by the Food Depository annually.