



Understand the Issue: POVERTY & HUNGER

Did you know?

Despite living in a land of plenty, many people in the United States are living in poverty. According to the U.S. Census Report, an estimated 14.5% of Americans are living at or below the poverty line.¹

Chicago has one of the highest poverty rates in the nation. Many families struggle to pay for basic necessities such as housing, childcare, healthcare and food. Because of tough choices and limited resources, some families have to skip meals or cut back on the quality or quantity of food they purchase to make ends meet. While emergency food assistance helps ease the burden, it isn't enough to ensure that everyone has the nutrition they need.

Large areas of Chicagoland, especially on the south and west sides, are over a mile away from the nearest grocery store. Living in a "food desert" makes access to healthful foods, like fresh meat and produce, extremely difficult. Many residents rely on fast food restaurants and gas stations for meals.

Let's Talk

- Have you ever struggled to make ends meet? If so, what was your experience like?
- Grocery stores have plenty of food. Why are people going hungry?
- Do you know how much your last dinner cost? Could you live on just \$5 a day?
- What can you do to help people who are experiencing poverty & hunger?

By the Numbers^{1,2,3}

1.3M

14% of Chicagoans lived at or below the poverty line in 2013

1 in 3

Children in Chicago are living in poverty

860K

or 1 in 6 in Cook County residents are food insecure

Learn More

Ages

5-8

- **Tight Times** by Barbara Shook Hazen
- **Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen** by DyAnn DiSalvo-Ryan

Ages

9-12

- **Bud, Not Buddy** by Christopher Paul Curtis
- **Hold Fast** by Blue Balliett

Young

Adult

- **Frontline: Poor Kids** (view on PBS Online)
- **The House on Mango Street** by Sandra Cisneros

¹ "US Census Poverty Data" Census.gov. Retrieved on 02-06-2015

² "Chicago poverty rate remains near 15 percent, census finds" ChicagoBusiness.com Retrieved on 02-06-2015

³ "Hunger 101" Greater Chicago Food Depository. ChicagosFoodBank.org. Retrieved on 02-06-2015

TAKE ACTION

Prepare a Meal

Work together as a family to prepare a favorite family recipe. Deliver your home-cooked meal to a local shelter or pack individual meals in lunch bags for people living on the street.

Host a Food Drive

Inspire your friends, neighbors and classmates to host a virtual food drive or collect nonperishable foods to donate to the Greater Chicago Food Depository or a local pantry.

Volunteer at an Urban Farm

Chicago is home to hundreds of community gardens, many of which provide fresh produce for neighborhood residents experiencing hunger. Find your local community garden through the Chicago Park District's website.

Help End Childhood Hunger

No Kid Hungry is a grassroots fundraising initiative that encourages people to host bake sales and donate the proceeds to help end childhood hunger in America. Bake your favorite treats and join the fight against hunger.

\$5 a Day Challenge

Challenge your family to eat healthy meals on just \$5 per day. Remember, if you find this difficult, 22 percent of Chicagoans have to survive on less.

Engage your Elected Officials

Much of the funding for food programs comes from federal grants that are administered by the states. By sharing your concerns with your local leaders, you can help influence where this money goes.

PARTNERS

Greater Chicago Food Depository

chicagosfoodbank.org • (773) 247-3663
(Food Drive)

No Kid Hungry

nokidhungry.org • (800) 969-4767
(Bake Sale)

Inspiration Café

inspirationcorp.org • (773) 878-0981
(Prepare a Meal)

Teen Living Program

teenliving.org • (773) 548-4443
(Prepare a Meal)

Feeding Illinois

feedingillinois.org • (773) 247-3663

Chicago Park District

chicagoparkdistrict.com • (312) 742-7529
(Urban Farming)

Peterson Garden Project

petersongarden.org
(Urban Farming)

Lincoln Park Community Shelter

pcsonline.org • (773) 549-6111
(Prepare a Meal)

Gardeneers

gardeneers.org
(Urban Farming)

Heartland Alliance

heartlandalliance.org • (312) 660-1300

Cradles to Crayons

cradlestocrayons.org



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The Honeycomb Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a focus on family volunteering. Our mission is to engage, mobilize and inspire kids and their families to build Chicago's communities through public service.