



2018 Annual Report
**Ending Hunger:
Protecting our Progress**



564,368

Illinois is home to more than a half-million, food-insecure households – 564,368 to be exact¹. On any given day, people have limited or uncertain access to food they need.

This is 11.2% of all Illinois households – more than 10 times the number of households in Peoria. And Joliet. And Springfield. It's equal to the entire North Side of Chicago – twice over. It's everyone in DuPage County, and then some. Simply put, it's too many people.

The Illinois Commission to End Hunger exists to bring this number down to zero, and we are indeed making progress. Our work this year focused on protecting programs that support our youngest and neediest residents. This report provides insight into our impact.

Our state's numbers are real: Hunger and poverty are formidable issues. Employing strategy, creativity and optimism, the Commission remains confident in our ability to end hunger in Illinois.

¹ 2017 U.S. Census American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.



By The Numbers

- In Illinois, 564,348 households are food insecure¹. This represents 11.2% of the state's population.
- Nearly 3.3 million Illinois residents live in poverty, living with lower earnings than 185% of the federal poverty level designation². This represents 26.2% of all residents; of this group:
 - Nearly 1.57 million live in poverty (12.6% of the state's population).
 - Children age 0 to 17 living in poverty total 486,196 (17% of the state's population)

What is Food Insecurity?

An economic and social condition that refers to a household's limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Food insecurity can beset almost anyone; a job loss, divorce, major illness or other unexpected events can move a household from having a pantry of plenty, to being unable to prepare or purchase food. Some households experience episodes of food insecurity even when their annual incomes are well above the poverty line.³

2020 Census concerns

Undercounting young children in the U.S. Census can adversely affect funding for critical community programs. In the 2010 census, more than 1 million children younger than the age of 5 were not counted³ (4.6% of all kids). Researchers have been exploring the origins of undercounting⁴, which include (multigenerational households, children living between multiple households, and gaps with survey completion and/or filings) as possible factors. Children of color in underserved areas are most likely to be undercounted and the possible inclusion of a citizenship question⁵ has heightened undercount concerns for the 2020 census.

¹Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. [Map the Meal Gap 2018: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2016](#). Feeding America, 2018. This research is generously supported by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and Nielsen.

² 2017 U.S. Census American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

³ United States Census Bureau, "Investigating the 2010 Undercount of Young Children – Analysis of Census Coverage Measurement Results" January 2017

⁴ Barry-Jester, Anna Marie. "A Million Children Didn't Show Up In The 2010 Census. How Many Will Be Missing In 2020?" FiveThirtyEight.com

⁵ Cohn, D'Vera. "What to know about the citizenship question the Census Bureau is planning to ask in 2020" Pew Research Center

Letter from the Commission's chairpersons

Governor Rauner, Constitutional Officers and Members of the General Assembly:

We stand at a critical place in our work to protect and ensure access to nutritious food for all Illinoisans. Over the past eight years, the nation's economy has improved and the number of Illinois residents facing food insecurity has decreased to 1.4 million from 2 million. Yet, for many it is still a struggle to find stable work, make ends meet and provide for their families. While there have been great strides in improving access to nutrition programs in Illinois since we began our work, challenges remain. We are vigilant against barriers and harmful changes that would prevent millions of people from accessing the support of vital nutrition programs.

Now is the time to protect the progress we've made. This report highlights our many collective achievements to break down barriers, streamline systems and sustain and magnify our progress of the past year.

First, we marked progress requesting and securing a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit waiver for calendar year 2018. Without the waiver, qualifying SNAP benefits based on employment status would have kept an estimated 260,000 Illinois adults from receiving essential food assistance. These residents are among our most vulnerable neighbors because of difficulties that hinder their access to employment, such as mental or physical limitations, low levels of education, chronic homelessness, a lack of transportation and criminal convictions.

Next, we saw legislative victories in the fight against hunger:

- The [College Student Hunger Relief](#) law extends SNAP eligibility to low-income students who are pursuing career or technical education programs. This legislation will help more than

40,000 economically-disadvantaged students at 49 community colleges afford nutritious food.

- The [Hunger Relief Tax Checkoff](#) option gives Illinois taxpayers the opportunity to contribute to the Hunger Relief Fund when they file individual income tax forms. The funds raised will aid Illinois food banks as they provide vital support to individuals and families struggling with hunger.
- The [Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund](#) would provide additional resources to double-value coupon incentive programs for SNAP participants who purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets and farm stands. While no appropriation was made for the fund in the Fiscal Year 2018 state budget, [Public Act 100-0636](#) deletes language repealing the Healthy Local Food Incentives Program on June 30, 2019, in order to provide additional time for appropriation and implementation.
- The [Breakfast After the Bell](#) law, entering its second year, requires schools where 70% or more of the student population is eligible for free or reduced-price meals to make breakfast part of the school day. Data from the 2017-18 school year shows that 12,000 additional students now have access to the nutrition necessary to support learning and classroom success.

As we celebrate these legislative protections, we're keeping watch on the pending U.S. Farm Bill. At the time of this report, Congress is working to negotiate a compromise bill. We urge our leaders in Washington to safeguard funding for SNAP and other existing nutrition programs, and to ensure that the millions of people who face the threat of hunger will have unhindered access to such programs.



The work to end hunger cannot be, and is not, done in silos. We have established fruitful collaborations with elected officials, state agencies, nonprofit organizations and engaged individuals who, together, introduce new thinking and innovative solutions. We imagine a future in which we serve as more mindful stewards of our resources to ensure that everyone has a seat at the table. This spirit of collaboration fuels our work, and we are confident that, despite obstacles and threats, we will maintain our momentum.

We are thankful to everyone engaged in our mission and are grateful for their contributions. We are dedicated to enlisting even more entities to join us in working to feed the thousands of Illinois children and adults who simply do not have enough food.

Sincerely,

Janice Glenn, Co-Chair
Director, Illinois Department of Human Rights

Kate Maehr, Co-Chair
Executive Director & CEO, Greater Chicago Food Depository

About the Commission

The Illinois Commission to End Hunger is a collaborative of government entities, community partners and committed individuals that work to end hunger and food insecurity throughout the state. The Commission was established in 2010 when The Illinois General Assembly passed the [Commission to End Hunger Act](#), which states: "It is the goal of the State of Illinois that no man, woman, or child should ever be faced with hunger."

The Commission works to create and advocate for policy changes, improve coordination among existing programs and service providers, and foster and engage new partnerships. It carries out its work via three Working Groups:

- **Benefits Access**, which focuses on improving access to government nutrition programs and maximizing the benefits obtained through such programs
- **Emergency Food System**, which explores public and private sector practices that enhance and advance food security
- **No Kid Hungry**, which supports strategies that alleviate child hunger year-round by working with schools, community-based programs and families

The Commission garners bipartisan support and requires no direct funding from the state government. The governor appoints its public members, and ex-officio members are drawn from key government agencies.

Our goals

End hunger

among all Illinois populations by improving access to quality, nutritious food

Build needed state infrastructure to ensure timely access and distribution of food

Encourage and expand communication and collaboration among government programs and agencies

Foster and further public awareness action pertaining to hunger and solutions

Establish and extend collaborative partnerships among the public and private sectors to implement Commission goals



Commissioners & Organizations

Rep. Patricia Bellock, *State House of Representatives*
Brian Colgan, *Office of Lieutenant Governor*
Leann Dolan, *Illinois Department on Aging*
John Cheney Egan, *Illinois Department of Children and Family Services*
Janice Glenn, *Illinois Department of Human Rights*
Esperanza Gonzalez, *Illinois Migrant Council*
Angel Gutierrez, *Catholic Charities*
Mark Haller, *Illinois State Board of Education*
Sen. Don Harmon, *State Senate*
Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez, *State House of Representatives*
Diane Grigsby Jackson, *Illinois Department of Human Services*
Ahlam Jbara, *Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights*
Jay Johnson, *Illinois Department of Natural Resources*
Barbara Karacic, *Community Member*
Bhagya Kolli, *East Side Health District*
Dan Lesser, *Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law*
Kate Maehr, *Greater Chicago Food Depository*
Michael Miller, *River Bend Foodbank*
Don Moffitt, *Illinois Department of Agriculture*
Diana Rauner, *Ounce of Prevention Fund*
Sen. Sue Rezin, *State Senate*
Amy Rynell, *Heartland Alliance*
Karen Tamley, *Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities*
Mary Ellen Warren, *Illinois Hunger Coalition*
Lynda Williams, *Teach for America*
Julie Yurko, *Northern Illinois Food Bank*

Spotlight: The Farm Bill

It would be a mistake to underestimate the impact of [The Farm Bill](#) on addressing hunger in Illinois, and nationwide. Its name masks its significance to people concerned about food security. This important legislation is the federal government's key nutritional assistance and agriculture policy framework.

Renewed approximately every five years, the Farm Bill covers several sectors, including: farm production and legislation; foreign agricultural affairs; food safety and inspection services; marketing and regulatory programs; rural development; research and education; economics; and nutrition and consumer services. Its renewal determines whether existing programs are maintained, strengthened or weakened. And, notably, the bulk of the Farm Bill's funding is spent on federal nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

If the Farm Bill's renewal includes cuts to nutrition programs, the consequences will be severe for Illinois: the number of hungry people will likely climb, and our food banks and pantries will not be able to make up for significant cuts to SNAP.

Farm Bill renewal

Following a series of hearings, the U.S. House and Senate each drafted versions of the bill. As of September 2018, Congress named a conference committee to negotiate and resolve key differences between the bills.

The House bill includes harmful cuts and adds additional harsh work requirements to qualify for the SNAP. Adult participants without children younger than age 6 would need to show documentation that they work at least 20 hours a week. The House version could also increase the paperwork required for SNAP participation, making it inaccessible. Millions of SNAP participants could lose benefits entirely, or see a significant reduction in their benefits, among other consequences. Individuals who serve as caregivers, the elderly and people with disabilities would also be negatively impacted by these proposed changes.

Meanwhile in the Senate, the bill takes a much more bipartisan approach and protects and makes improvements to federal nutrition programs and how they operate.



“Every little bit helps, but it is not enough.”

Tammy Scanlan's husband passed away unexpectedly in 2015, leaving her with two teenage sons and bills. “Suddenly, I was on my own,” she said. She mourned deeply, then steadied herself for a job hunt, pushing out resumes until landing a part-time job. Still, she needs more to support her family. “I get up every day at 4:30 or 5 a.m. to search for a full-time job,” she said. Tammy and her family receive SNAP benefits. “We SNAP recipients are not just sitting around doing nothing and living off the government. We are people who are struggling.” She also visits local food pantries because “SNAP is not always enough. Every little bit helps, but it is not enough.” Tenacious against hardship, Tammy has found a community of support. “You meet people who are in your situation, or have it rougher than you do, and you immediately become grateful for what you do have.”

Spotlight: SNAP in Illinois

SNAP plays a significant role in addressing hunger and food insecurity in Illinois. One in seven Illinois residents receives SNAP benefits; that's nearly 1.9 million people who represent about 15% of our state's population. Feeding America estimates that the average cost per meal for these neighbors was \$2.77. (This is based on the fiscal year 2017 allocation of more than \$2.9 million in SNAP funds to Illinois.) Overall, SNAP benefits in our state can provide nearly 1.06 billion meals per year.



LINKUp Illinois doubles value for fresh food

LINKUp Illinois, a program that doubles the value of SNAP purchases at participating farmers markets, makes fresh produce more accessible in underserved neighborhoods.

When shoppers buy produce, they earn LINKUp Illinois Link Match coupons that can be used to purchase more fruits and vegetables. Experimental Station, the lead partner for LINKUp Illinois, has been engaged in this effort for close to a decade, having piloted a double-value initiative in 2009.

Participating farmers markets receive Link Match funding, in addition to training and technical assistance around program implementation; there are currently 74 farmers markets participating in LINKUp Illinois, but they represent only 20 percent of the more than 350 farmers markets throughout the state. Nonetheless, by integrating Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) systems, the participating entities play a crucial role in increasing access to healthy food.

“You have to hope it gets better.”

Latasha Williams earned her medical coding degree in 2015, and has yet to find a job in her field. “I thought my degree was going to be an investment,” she said. Instead, she’s paying back student loans while working a part-time job that doesn’t offer steady hours. Her checks are sometimes garnished for loan payments, her hours are often short, and transportation costs hit hard. One recent paycheck was just \$45. “I don’t even have enough to eat. If they aren’t busy, I don’t get paid.” Latasha lives with her mother, who has a medical condition. SNAP helps her buy essential foods, and she fills in the gaps by visiting a food pantry. “The food pantry helps make sure my mom and I are able to eat, even if I can’t always make ends meet. A paycheck diminishes really quickly at the grocery store; everything is so expensive.” Latasha presses ahead, eager for more hours. “It’s hard but I hope it gets better. You have to hope it gets better.”

Federal nutrition programs: statewide participation

| Program | Participation FY16 (individuals) | Participation FY17 (individuals) | Percent Change in Participation (FY16 to FY17) | Latest Month Available (May 2018) |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/SNAP (average monthly participation) | 1,914,393 | 1,878,519 | -1.9% | 1,875,867 |
| SNAP for Women, Infants & Children/WIC (total participation) | 225,159 | 211,367 | -6.1% | 198,463 |
| National School Lunch Program/NSLP | 1,084,030 | 1,059,252 | -2.3% | 1,013,398 |
| National School Breakfast Program/NSBP | 431,275 | 424,722 | -1.5% | 431,949 |
| Summer Food Service Program/ SFSP (average daily attendance) | 57,945 | 96,277 | 66.2% | n/a |
| Child and Adult Care Food Program/CACFP (average daily attendance) | 142,879 | 140,116 | -1.9% | n/a |
| Commodity Supplemental Food Program/CSFP | 16,020 | 16,481 | 2.9% | n/a |

Source: [USDA Food and Nutrition Service](#)

SNAP: In FY17, an average of 976,672 Illinois households participated in the SNAP program each month, compared to 996,092 households in FY16

WIC: Total participation declined 6.1 percent from FY16 to FY17

NSLP: 175,107,587 lunches were served in FY17, a 3.8 percent decrease from FY16

NSBP: 72,237,919 breakfasts were served in FY17 a 3.0 percent decrease from FY16

SFSP: 4,653,205 SFSP meals were served in FY17: a 17.4 percent increase from FY16

Reports from our Working Groups

Benefits Access

Co-Chairs:

Kathy Chan, *Cook County Health*

Dan Lesser, *Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law*

Emergency Food System

Chair:

Michael Miller, *River Bend Foodbank*

Co-Chair:

Steve Ericson, *Feeding Illinois*

No Kid Hungry

Chair:

Tom Browning, *Illinois Action for Children*



Hunger should not magnify trauma

Since the Commission's founding, the number of applicants seeking temporary U.S. nonimmigrant status as victims of human trafficking has almost doubled.¹ According to the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#), Illinois has been referenced in more than 4,500 calls², and there are more than 2,000 human trafficking cases connected to the state. The victims of trafficking, torture or other serious crimes population is vulnerable and growing.

¹Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Performance Analysis System (PAS), March 2016 "Number of I-914 Applications for T Nonimmigrant Status (Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking and Family Members) by Fiscal Year, Quarter, and Case Status 2008-2016"

²Source: The National Human Trafficking Hotline, December 2017 to present

Benefits Access Working Group

Ensuring access for the vulnerable

Co-Chairs:

Kathy Chan, *Cook County Health*

Dan Lesser, *Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law*



MISSION

To support policies and practices that increase access to publicly-funded food and nutrition programs

STRATEGIES

- Seek changes in administrative rules, procedures and statutes to simplify and improve residents' access to food and nutrition benefits
- Identify and encourage ideas that increase residents' participation in the Older Americans Act, Group Site (Congregate) and Home-Delivered meal programs
- Maximize the benefits to individuals and families that are available through government nutrition programs

PROGRESS

- 2018 SNAP time limit waiver allows adult participants without children to continue receiving benefits regardless of employment status
- SNAP eligibility for Victims of Human Trafficking (SB3007), which, beginning

January 2018, makes public benefits available to victims and asylum applicants in the time prior to and during their application review

- Two legislative victories in the 2018 session: 1) passing the College Student Hunger Bill, which expands SNAP eligibility for low-income community college students, and 2) making The Healthy Local Foods Incentives Fund permanent, giving advocates more time to secure additional funding for SNAP double-value coupon incentives

MOVING FORWARD

- Urge governor and state leadership to apply for a SNAP time limit waiver in 2019
- Encourage policy waivers that simplify SNAP access for older adults and people with disabilities
- Strengthen and enhance access to SNAP in Illinois through other policy and process changes
- Increase WIC enrollment and retention



Commission members collaborate to ensure community understanding of SNAP changes

In anticipation of impending changes related to SNAP eligibility in DuPage County, the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Northern Illinois Food Bank and the DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform helped prepare community organizations and individuals for the rollout of the Able-Bodied-Adults-Without-Dependents (ABAWD) time limit rule (which became effective in DuPage County in January 2018).

The DuPage Federation organized two November training sessions, hosted by the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva and the People's Resource Center in Westmont.

The Northern Illinois Food Bank and the DuPage Federation also collaborated to create printed resources on the new time-limit rule for community partners, other service providers and residents to whom the rule applies. These printed materials explain the changes of eligibility, indicate additional actions required of those affected in order to continue receiving benefits, and provide additional resources. These materials were made available on the organizations' websites and emailed to partners throughout DuPage County. In addition, the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago worked with both organizations to develop materials for their funded organizations.

The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, in partnership with Loaves & Fishes Community Services, launched a weekly SNAP Appeal Clinic at the Loaves & Fishes food pantry. The clinic, staffed by individuals from the Shriver Center, monitors the rollout of the ABAWD time limit changes, assists clients with issues related to their SNAP benefits and helps those affected by the time limit waiver navigate the newly implemented rules. Before the launch of the clinic, Shriver Center staff created a SNAP Appeal training for Loaves & Fishes public benefit volunteers and other community partners. The SNAP Clinic will continue assisting individuals through the end of the year.

Partnership reduces food waste

State Fairs are renowned for bountiful displays of beautiful fruits and vegetables, but after the ribbons and prizes have been awarded, what becomes of the food? Typically, it's left behind as waste. Thanks to a partnership between the Emergency Food System Working Group and the Illinois Specialty Growers Association, the close of the 2018 Illinois State Fair led to a bounty for a local food bank. The fair's remaining fresh produce — watermelon, cantaloupe, sweet corn, peaches, tomatoes and other items — was donated, exemplifying the working group's focus on surplus capture and donation opportunities.

Worldwide, food waste is emerging as an important issue. Feeding America attributes roughly 16 percent of U.S. food waste to farms/farming practices, and two percent to manufacturing. The organization asserts that industry partnerships can lead to less food waste, more people being fed and big steps toward ending hunger.

Emergency Food System Working Group

Practices and partnerships to yield sustainable solutions

Chair:

Michael Miller, *River Bend Foodbank*

Co-Chair:

Steve Ericson, *Feeding Illinois*

MISSION

To increase available food supply to ensure that everyone has access to nutritious food at all times

STRATEGIES

- Further hunger relief efforts, focusing on long-term actions that yield sustainable growth
- Coordinate the development of a strategy that engages the Illinois agriculture community to increase value and volume of food donations to hunger-relief providers
- Move forward with a statewide agricultural surplus capture

PROGRESS

- Expanded partnership with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA), encouraging food donations from its membership and outlining the enhanced tax deductions that are available to growers
- Worked with the Illinois Department of Agriculture to expand awareness about food insecurity and donation opportunities and tax benefits (e.g. ensuring that Illinois weigh stations can directly communicate with local food banks, participating in Illinois Agriculture Legislative Day)
- Conceptualized a statewide food sourcing strategy, with the goal of developing a common approach and language in order to maximize food donations

MOVING FORWARD

- Develop and implement a statewide food sourcing strategy
- Continue to promote food recovery opportunities with agricultural groups
- Pilot a surplus food program with ISGA



Feeding students in a new way

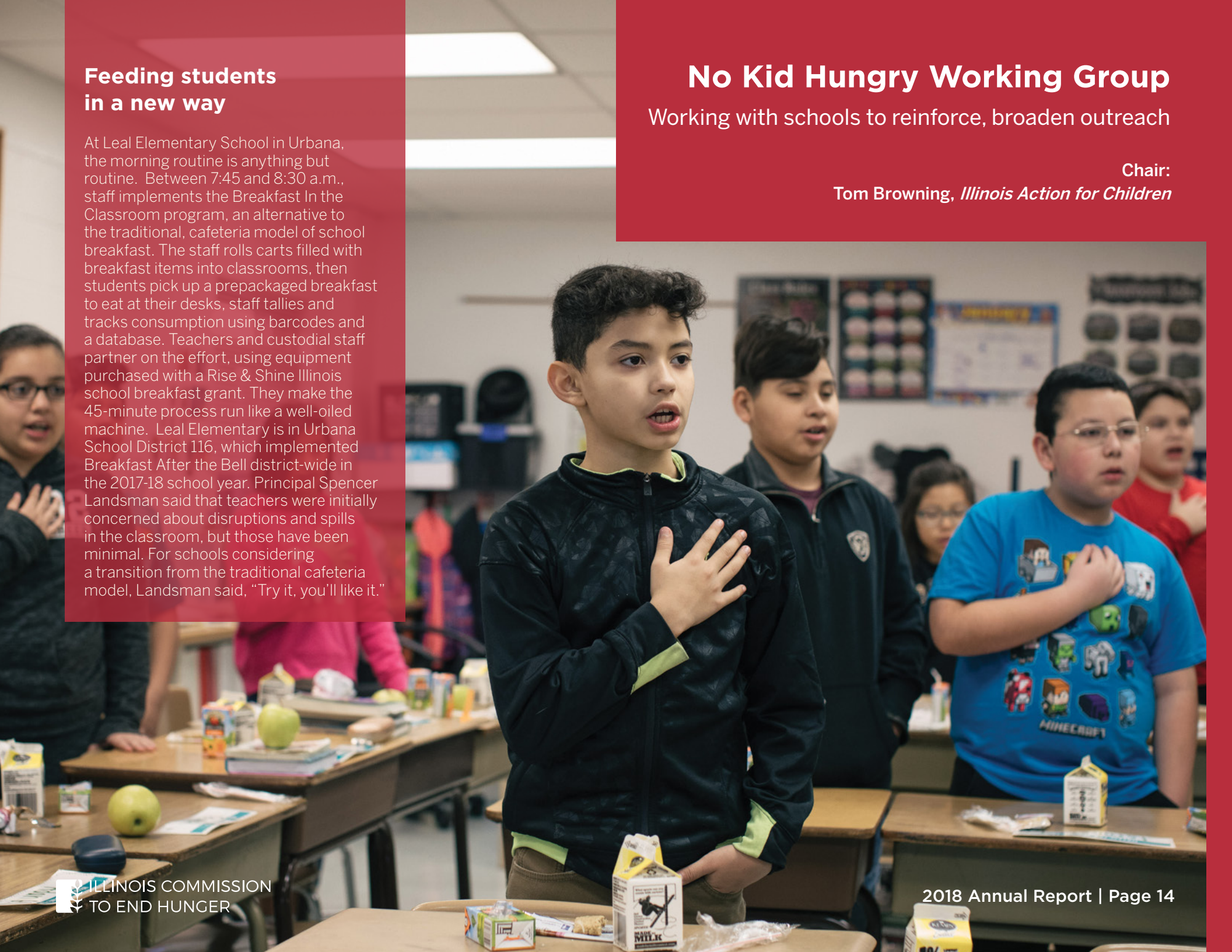
At Leal Elementary School in Urbana, the morning routine is anything but routine. Between 7:45 and 8:30 a.m., staff implements the Breakfast In the Classroom program, an alternative to the traditional, cafeteria model of school breakfast. The staff rolls carts filled with breakfast items into classrooms, then students pick up a prepackaged breakfast to eat at their desks, staff tallies and tracks consumption using barcodes and a database. Teachers and custodial staff partner on the effort, using equipment purchased with a Rise & Shine Illinois school breakfast grant. They make the 45-minute process run like a well-oiled machine. Leal Elementary is in Urbana School District 116, which implemented Breakfast After the Bell district-wide in the 2017-18 school year. Principal Spencer Landsman said that teachers were initially concerned about disruptions and spills in the classroom, but those have been minimal. For schools considering a transition from the traditional cafeteria model, Landsman said, "Try it, you'll like it."

No Kid Hungry Working Group

Working with schools to reinforce, broaden outreach

Chair:

Tom Browning, *Illinois Action for Children*



MISSION

To expand the number of Illinois children participating in, and benefitting from, meal programs, year-round

STRATEGIES

- Advocate for policies and efforts that expand food access for children
- Increase participation in child nutrition programs (National School Breakfast Program/NSBP, Summer Food Service Program/SFSP, and Child and Adult Care Feeding Program/CACFP)
- Look for sustainable funding streams for the expansion of child nutrition programs

PROGRESS

- Supported implementation of Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) programs in schools, including:
 - Updating the BAB tool kit to get schools ready to implement their own programs
 - Created a one-page overview on BAB that included insights on obtaining grants and implementation help from Rise & Shine Illinois
 - Held four BAB summits in partnership with the Intermediate Service Centers – three in Cook County (Hillside, Chicago Heights and Des Plaines) and one in the Rockford area (co-hosted with Illinois Action for Healthy Kids); in total, representatives from 41 school districts attended to learn best practices from school districts with successful BAB programs, received expert advice from ISBE, USDA and Share Our Strength, and information about financial support and other resources

- Awarded \$176,000 in grants to 28 school districts to support and enhance BAB programs with the purchase of equipment
- Hosted two peer-to-peer site visits in West Aurora at Nancy Hill and Urbana at Wiley elementary school for districts interested in implementing a BAB program; representatives from 11 school districts attended, observed BAB programs in action, and asked questions of officials
- Created BAB videos to highlight how schools have successfully implemented the program
- Built awareness of After-School and Summer Meal Programs, by hosting a Summer Meals Summit with the Illinois State Board of Education and the creation of editable flyers to promote sponsors, sites and programs
- Awarded \$62,000 in grants to 14 Summer Meal Program sponsors to facilitate expansion of their programs

MOVING FORWARD

- Continue partnering with schools and organizations to implement and promote Breakfast After the Bell by providing grants, making peer-to-peer connections and offering technical assistance
- Participate in the Illinois State Board of Education's annual budget hearings to give greater context and weight to the importance of funding of child nutrition programs
- Increase the number of sites, sponsors and grant dollars for after-school and summer meal programs



Summer “Meals on the Move” fills a gap in Aurora

The park was teeming with children who were playing tag, climbing playground equipment and enjoying the summer sun. Eager eyes spotted the arrival of a large van, and in a moment, activity stopped. “The food is here!” said the kids, running to claim their lunches. Northern Illinois Food Bank’s van was there with “Meals on the Move,” an initiative funded by a capacity-building grant from Rise & Shine Illinois in partnership with No Kid Hungry. From June 11 through August 10, 2018, Meals on the Move provided free, nutritious lunches to youth (18 and younger) at five Aurora parks that were strategically selected in consultation with government officials and other stakeholders.

“Kids already like to come to the park, so having lunch at the park is another incentive for them to get outside and do something,” said Jessica Willis, Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) Child Nutrition Programs Manager. Partnerships strengthened the program. The Aurora Public Library bookmobile joined Meals on the Move at two parks each week, and the Fox Valley Park District Neighborhood Art Program connected at four parks during the summer.

“There aren’t a lot of options for kids not in summer camp or summer school to get a lunch during the summer months. If we were not here, I’m not sure what the alternative would be, or if it would be as nutritious as what we gave,” said Dawn Yarbrough, NIFB Senior Child Nutrition Program Specialist. “It’s being able to come into communities and provide that one basic need [food] so [kids] can focus on playing, smiling and having fun. That’s so important for us.”

U.S.D.A. honors three Illinois organizations

Each year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors with its Turnip the Beet Award. Sponsors include organizations that participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO), and work to serve children high-quality meals that are appetizing, appealing and nutritious. Congratulations to these 2018 Illinois' awardees:



Gold Level:
Greater Chicago Food Depository



Silver Level:
Northern Illinois Food Bank



Bronze Level:
City of Evanston

Special Acknowledgements

The Illinois Commission to End Hunger is pleased to salute partners that received awards and recognition this year. We also recognize and commend the thousands of volunteers, supporters and donors who are engaged in this work on professional, personal and civic levels.

2018 Rise & Shine grants to 13 organizations

These organizations received Rise & Shine Illinois Summer Meals grant funds of up to \$10,000 to help administer their summer meal programs.

- Archdiocese of Chicago
- Boys & Girls Club of Elgin
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago
- Chicago PSD-Network OII, Chicago*
- Clay County Health Department, Flora
- Douglas County Health Department, Tuscola
- First Free Will Baptist Church, Johnston City
- Harrisburg Community Unit School District 3, Harrisburg*
- High Jump, Chicago
- Lincoln Elementary School District 27, Lincoln
- New Bethel M. B. Church, East Saint Louis
- Northern Illinois Food Bank, Geneva* (see sidebar, "Summer Meals on the Move Fills a Gap in Aurora")
- River Bend Foodbank, Quad Cities

*These organizations received capacity-building grants of up to \$10,000. All other organizations received mini-grants of up to \$5,000.

Hunger summit advances collaboration and impact

Each year, hundreds of community and government leaders convene in Springfield for the Hunger Summit to learn about new policies, programs, and innovations aimed at addressing hunger in Illinois. The summit focuses on strategies and techniques that empower attendees to think thematically about solving the issue of hunger in our society. More than 300 people participated in the 2018 summit.





The Road Ahead

Our progress inspires our optimism

Most people experience hunger *personally*. They wake up ready to break their overnight fasts; they end their days with a desire for a good meal. They end hunger for themselves by reaching for food that is readily available.

Some people don't have the ability to end their hunger; they don't have access to enough food, their food supply is unstable and irregular, and often, their food lacks nutritional value. That is why the Commission works to end hunger for *all Illinoisans*, by ensuring that nutrition programs benefit our state's most vulnerable citizens, that none of our children go to school or to bed hungry, and that systems allow ready access to food, especially in emergencies.

In 2018, we saw progress in our work, but we are far from celebrating.

Looking ahead, we must protect the gains we've made toward ending hunger in Illinois. We will continue to innovate, collaborate and push until the numbers of food-insecure residents in our state equals zero.

Join us in our mission.

Volunteer at your local food bank or food distribution center. Be more thoughtful about how you use and repurpose food, reducing waste in your home and workplace. Let your political leaders know that ending hunger is an issue that matters to you. And, be as optimistic as we are that we can end hunger in our lifetime.

We welcome, and appreciate, your support.

Our progress on the legislative front is clear, and it continues. But the circumstances that impact food insecurity are far and wide. Each year, new and varied challenges emerge. Nonetheless, we won't waiver in our efforts to advance policies and programs that ensure access to nutritious food for everyone. It is vitally important that we continue to illustrate how our collective determination and contributions are making a positive difference.

Working Group Members

Benefits Access Working Group

Sherie Arriazola, *Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities*
Laura Brookes, *Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities*
Kathy Chan, *Cook County Health*
Leann Dolan, *Illinois Department on Aging*
Kimberly Drew, *Heartland Alliance*
Julia Dworkin, *Chicago Coalition for the Homeless*
Amy Dyer, *Northern Illinois Food Bank*
Michael Gillespie, *Eastern Illinois University*
Esperanza Gonzalez, *Illinois Migrant Council*
Susan Holzer, *USDA, Food and Nutrition Service*
Bailey Huffman, *Age Options*
Alicia Huguelet, *Greater Chicago Food Depository*
Ahlam Jbara, *Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights*
Lindsey Kahney, *Age Options*
Barbara Karacic, *Community Member*
Bhagya Kolli, *East St. Louis Health District*
Dan Lesser, *Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law*
Carmenza Millan, *AARP*
Javette Orgain, *At-Large Member*
Aimee Ramirez, *Greater Chicago Food Depository*
Angelia Smith, *Ford Heights Community Center*
Maribeth Stein, *Age Options*
Alison Stevens, *Illinois Hunger Coalition*
Barry Taylor, *Equip for Equality*
Terri Vaniter, *Illinois Department of Human Services*
Mary Ellen Warren, *Illinois Hunger Coalition*

No Kid Hungry Working Group

Signe Anderson, *Food Research Action Center*
Hollie Baker-Lutz, *Northern Illinois Food Bank*
Robin Brown, *Midwest Dairy Council*
Tom Browning, *Illinois Action for Children*
John Cheney Egan, *Illinois Department of Children and Family Services*
Diane Doherty, *Illinois Hunger Coalition*
Jonathan Doster, *The Ounce of Prevention Fund*
Daylan Dufelmeier, *University of Illinois Chicago
Partnership for Health Promotion*

Emergency Food System

Lindsey Arenberg, *Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity*
Steve Ericson, *Feeding Illinois*
Jay Johnson, *Illinois Department of Natural Resources*
Sheila Kennedy, *Top Box Foods*
Dan Kenney, *DeKalb County Community Gardens*
Jessica Lynch, *Illinois Public Health Institute*
Janie Maxwell, *Illinois Farmers Market Association*
Suzy McNamara, *Top Box Foods*
Michael Miller, *River Bend Foodbank*
Don Moffitt, *Illinois Department of Agriculture*
Trish Robb, *J.R. Albert Foundation*
Raghela Scavuzzo, *Illinois Farm Bureau*
Gary Tomlin, *Knox County Produce Farms*

Jill Edelblute, *YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago*
Vista Fletcher, *USDA, Food and Nutrition Service*
Amy Funk, *University of Illinois Extension*
Meghan Gibbons, *Illinois School Nutrition Association*
Mark Haller, *Illinois State Board of Education*
Maged Hanafi, *USDA, Food and Nutrition Service*
Lilah Handler, *EverThrive Illinois*
Jenny Hansen, *United Way of Metropolitan Chicago*
Merdis Hudson, *USDA, Food and Nutrition Service*
Alicia Huguelet, *Greater Chicago Food Depository*
Patricia Islas, *Community Organizing Family Issues*
Nadeen Israel, *EverThrive Illinois*
Karen Kempf, *Illinois School Nutrition Association*
Lolita Lopez, *EverThrive Illinois*
Sonianne Lozada, *Greater Chicago Food Depository*
Jennifer Nau, *Northern Illinois Food Bank*
Angela Odoms-Young, *University of Illinois Chicago,
Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition*
Sarah Richardson, *University of Illinois Chicago
Partnership for Health Promotion*
Teresa Schryver, *Northern Illinois Food Bank*
Lupe Villanueva, *Catholic Charities*
Kristin Voigts, *Illinois School Nutrition Association*
Jessica Willis, *Northern Illinois Food Bank*



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“It’s not just me who deals with issues. Real people are lining up at food pantries and applying for money to put food on the table. We’re not numbers or statistics. We must share our stories. Our voices make a difference.”



— Kathleen Scanlan, patron of the Schaumburg Township Pantry

 ILLINOIS COMMISSION
TO END HUNGER

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This report was prepared by the Greater Chicago Food Depository with input from partners statewide.