

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****SB2778**

Introduced 1/13/2026, by Sen. Lakesia Collins

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:New Act
20 ILCS 1305/10-65

Creates the Comprehensive Charitable Food System Coordination Act. Provides that State agencies involved in administering or appropriating State or State-managed federal grant funds for hunger relief shall consult and coordinate, to the extent practicable, with all categories of actors within the charitable food system. Further provides that those State agencies shall ensure that grant solicitations and funding criteria reflect the interconnected roles of food providers, distributors, producers, facilitators, and data systems. Requires those State agencies to consider proposals that strengthen coordination, efficiency, resiliency, and equity across the charitable food system. Provides that State agencies may establish advisory groups composed of representatives from food providers and distributors. Provides that each State agency administering hunger relief grant funds shall submit an annual report to the appropriate State oversight entity describing: how actors in the charitable food system were engaged in grant planning, allocation, and evaluation; measurable impacts on food access, food quality, and community resilience; and barriers or opportunities identified through cross-sector collaboration. Amends the Department of Human Services Act. Provides that the Department of Human Services shall make grants to food banks and providers (rather than food banks only). Defines "provider" as a public or charitable organization that is unaffiliated with a food bank, that maintains an operation involving the provision of food or edible commodities, and that, as an integral part of its normal activities, provides meals or food to feed needy persons on a regular basis. Effective July 1, 2026.

LRB104 16851 HLH 30261 b

1 AN ACT concerning finance.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Comprehensive Charitable Food System Coordination Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to ensure
7 that State-administered hunger relief programs and grantmaking
8 activities strengthen the entire charitable food system by
9 considering all key actors involved in food access,
10 distribution, and coordination.

11 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

12 "Actors in the charitable food system" includes, but is
13 not limited to:

14 (1) food providers, including food banks, food
15 pantries, community-based organizations, nonprofit
16 organizations, schools, hospitals, mutual aid
17 organizations, retailers, and meal programs;

18 (2) food distributors, including last-mile delivery
19 organizations and wholesalers;

20 (3) food producers, including farmers, agricultural
21 cooperatives, and community gardens;

22 (4) facilitators, including logistics providers,

1 warehousers, storage facilities, aggregators, outreach
2 coordinators, and operational support agencies; and

3 (5) data systems used for tracking, measurement, and
4 reporting.

5 "Charitable food system" means the network of
6 organizations, entities, and systems that procure, transport,
7 distribute, or facilitate access to food or edible
8 commodities, or the products of food or edible commodities,
9 for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

10 Section 15. State grant coordination requirements.

11 (a) In administering or appropriating State or
12 State-managed federal grant funds for hunger relief, each
13 State agency shall:

14 (1) consult and coordinate, to the extent practicable,
15 with all categories of actors within the charitable food
16 system as defined in subsection (b) of Section 10;

17 (2) ensure that grant solicitations and funding
18 criteria reflect the interconnected roles of food
19 providers, distributors, producers, facilitators, and data
20 systems; and

21 (3) consider proposals that strengthen coordination,
22 efficiency, resiliency, and equity across the charitable
23 food system.

24 (b) State agencies may establish advisory groups or
25 working groups composed of representatives from the actors in

1 the charitable food system to assist in developing funding
2 priorities, performance metrics, and partnership guidelines.

3 Section 20. Reporting; evaluation. Each State agency
4 administering hunger relief grant funds shall submit an annual
5 report to the appropriate State oversight entity describing:

6 (1) how actors in the charitable food system were
7 engaged in grant planning, allocation, and evaluation;

8 (2) measurable impacts on food access, food quality,
9 and community resilience; and

10 (3) barriers or opportunities identified through
11 cross-sector collaboration.

12 Section 25. The Department of Human Services Act is
13 amended by changing Section 10-65 as follows:

14 (20 ILCS 1305/10-65)

15 Sec. 10-65. Hunger Relief Fund; grants.

16 (a) The Hunger Relief Fund is created as a special fund in
17 the State treasury. From appropriations to the Department from
18 the Fund, the Department shall make grants to food banks and
19 providers for the purpose of purchasing food and related
20 supplies. In this Section, "food bank" means a public or
21 charitable institution that maintains an established operation
22 involving the provision of food or edible commodities, or the
23 products of food or edible commodities, to food pantries, soup

1 kitchens, hunger relief centers, or other food or feeding
2 centers that, as an integral part of their normal activities,
3 provide meals or food to feed needy persons on a regular basis.

4 (b) Moneys received for the purposes of this Section,
5 including, without limitation, appropriations, gifts,
6 donations, grants, and awards from any public or private
7 entity must be deposited into the Fund. Any interest earned on
8 moneys in the Fund must be deposited into the Fund.

9 (c) In this Section, "provider" means a public or
10 charitable organization that is unaffiliated with a food bank,
11 that maintains an operation involving the provision of food or
12 edible commodities, and that, as an integral part of its
13 normal activities, provides meals or food to feed needy
14 persons on a regular basis.

15 (Source: P.A. 96-604, eff. 8-24-09; 97-333, eff. 8-12-11.)

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
17 2026.