



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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As USDA Reports Significant Increase in Food Insecurity, Eastern Illinois Foodbank Asks Community to Take Action During Hunger Action Month

URBANA, IL – September 5, 2024 – In this year’s [Household Food Security report](#), the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) found that 13.5% of U.S. households were food insecure in 2023—a significant increase over the previous year. During Hunger Action Month® this September, Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) joins Feeding America and other network member food banks to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of the increasing rate of food insecurity.

As the food pantries and programs in EIF’s 18-county network are currently serving 90% more people than in 2022, community support is more vital than ever for the foodbank. “A historic amount of our neighbors are experiencing food insecurity, and EIF isn’t immune to the same rising costs that are straining the budgets of so many local families,” said Foodbank President & CEO Kelly Daly. “We know that more than 134,000 of our neighbors are facing hunger, and that the continued success of our mission of alleviating hunger in eastern Illinois is only possible with the support of our community. The need may be great, but this community is greater.”

During the month of September, people across eastern Illinois can get involved in the movement by learning, committing, and speaking up about ways to end hunger.

- **Donate** – Visit <https://www.eifoodbank.org/impact/news/events/hunger-action-month.html> to donate to the Million Meal Challenge. Every \$1 donated provides three meals to a neighbor experiencing hunger.
- **Volunteer** – Sign up to repack food for local families at the annual Operation Orange volunteer event at <https://www.mobilize.us/eifoodbank/event/669671/>, and visit www.eifoodbank.org/action/volunteer to find upcoming volunteer opportunities.
- **Raise Awareness** – Wear orange on Tuesday, September 10 for Hunger Action Day to raise awareness of hunger. Post photos on social media and tag @eifoodbank.

September marks the 17th year Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, has organized the annual call to action. This year’s campaign highlights the impact of food on people’s lives, and shows how food goes beyond nourishing the body—when people are fed, futures are nourished.

“We can end hunger in the U.S. when we decide to work together with coordinated action and a shared belief that everyone deserves fresh, nutritious food,” said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America. “This year during Hunger Action Month, we are encouraging everyone to take action. Raise your



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voice. Volunteer. Donate. Our individual actions may seem small, but together they become a powerful movement that can change history.”

Learn more about how you can take action by visiting eifoodbank.org.

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About Eastern Illinois Foodbank

Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) works to alleviate hunger in eastern Illinois as the primary food source to a network of 160 food pantries, agencies, and other programs throughout our 18-county service area. Through these agencies, the Foodbank provides meals to more than 1.5 million people each year. Since 1983, EIF has led the fight against hunger and strengthened communities by providing food access, emergency relief, education, and advocacy to families in east-central Illinois. EIF is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Illinois, the United Way of Coles County, and the United Way of Champaign County. For more information, visit eifoodbank.org.

About Feeding America

Feeding America is committed to an America where no one is hungry. We support tens of millions of people who experience food insecurity to get the food and resources they say they need to thrive as part of a nationwide network of food banks, statewide food bank associations, food pantries and meal programs. We also invest in innovative solutions to increase equitable access to nutritious food, advocate for legislation that improves food security and work to address factors that impact food security, such as health, cost of living and employment.

We partner with people experiencing food insecurity, policymakers, organizations, and supporters, united with them in a movement to end hunger. Visit feedingamerica.org to learn more.