



## PRESS RELEASE

08/25/2020

For Immediate Release

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### **EASTERN ILLINOIS FOODBANK RECEIVES \$417,000 GRANT FROM FEEDING AMERICA TO INCREASE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS AND INCREASE CULTURALLY-DIVERSE FOOD**

**URBANA, IL, (08/25/2020)** — Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) today announced a \$417,000 grant from Feeding America’s COVID-19 Response Fund to purchase a food distribution truck and expand its food inventory to include more culturally-diverse choices. This significant grant will enable EIF to increase its ability to distribute food to rural communities and underserved neighborhoods. The grant also included pass-through funds for the Peoria Area Food Bank, EIF’s partner distribution organization.

Funds from the grant will be used to purchase a beverage truck and awning that will allow EIF to more efficiently travel into small communities to distribute food. Food can be distributed directly from the vehicle, which will reduce set up and clean-up time, allowing EIF to serve more than one community in a day. EIF estimates the truck will add 50 additional mobile food distributions to its foodmobile program.

Funds will also be used to expand EIF’s food inventory to include more culturally-diverse choices. A project advisory group has been formed to help procure diverse food selections and identify best practices for distribution. The group consists of a broad representation of the communities EIF serves, including clients of the foodbank and its partner agencies.

“Hunger affects people from all walks of life,” said Jim Hires, President & CEO of Eastern Illinois Foodbank. “With this grant from Feeding America, we will be able to better serve children, families and seniors facing food insecurity in eastern Illinois in the communities where they live and with nutritious, culturally-appropriate food.”

Last year, EIF served more than 650,000 pounds of food to 25,000 individuals through 52 mobile food distributions.

To learn more about Eastern Illinois Foodbank, visit [www.eifoodbank.org](http://www.eifoodbank.org).

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#### **About Eastern Illinois Foodbank**

*Eastern Illinois Foodbank works to alleviate hunger in eastern Illinois through cooperation with a network of food pantries, agencies and other programs. The Foodbank distributes donated and discounted food throughout an 18-county service area in cooperation with 170 member agencies and programs. Through these agencies, the Foodbank provides meals to 58,000 men, women and children each month. The Eastern Illinois Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Illinois, and the United Way of Champaign County*



Eastern Illinois  
**FOODBANK**

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### **About Feeding America**

*Feeding America® is the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through a network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs, they provide meals to more than 46 million people each year. Feeding America also supports programs that prevent food waste and improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org) for more information.*