



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Eastern Illinois Foodbank Receives \$4,000 Grant from Ameren Illinois** *Funds will support emergency food in rural underserved communities*

Urbana, Ill. (06/11/19) – On July 9, 2019 Ameren Illinois presented the Eastern Illinois Foodbank with a \$4,000 grant to help fund three food mobiles that will supply approximately 30,000 pounds of food to 300-450 households.

Eastern Illinois Foodbank provides food to agencies like food pantries, soup kitchens, snack programs and shelters who serve individuals and families struggling with hunger due to poverty. The foodbank strives to alleviate hunger in eastern Illinois and in 2018 provided 8.2 million meals.

"In rural counties, there are significantly fewer resources for families facing food insecurity to find food," said Jim Hires, President & CEO of Eastern Illinois Foodbank. "The Ameren grant will help close a critical gap in access to emergency food in rural and underserved areas."

The grant funds were awarded through the Ameren Cares program, which connects Ameren Illinois with the communities it serves through charitable giving and volunteering. Craig Gilson, Senior Director, Division Operations of Ameren Illinois, said a key focus of this program is to partner with non-profit organizations like Eastern Illinois Foodbank to improve the quality of life in Ameren Illinois' service territory.

"From single-parent families to the working poor, hunger affects many in our communities," said Gilson. "The Eastern Illinois Foodbank addresses this issue head on, and we at Ameren Illinois are proud to support their critical efforts to help our communities."

For more information on the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, visit [eifoodbank.org](http://eifoodbank.org) or call 217.328.3663.

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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 more than 160 member agencies and programs. Through these agencies, the Foodbank provides meals to more than 100,000 men, women and children each year. The Eastern Illinois Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Illinois, the United Way of Coles County, and the United Way of Champaign County.*