



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### EASTERN ILLINOIS FOODBANK HARNESSSES COLLECTIVE ACTION THIS HUNGER ACTION MONTH AS HUNGER REACHES NEW HIGH

**URBANA, IL (September 2, 2025)** — September marks the 18<sup>th</sup> year Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, has organized a national call to action through Hunger Action Month. This Hunger Action Month, Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) is calling on east-central Illinois to come together once again to end hunger in America.

"People across the country have demonstrated immense care for their neighbors in crisis time and time again, helping to build stronger, more resilient communities," said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America. "Ending the hunger crisis in America is no different. When we all work together, alongside our neighbors facing hunger, we can find solutions to ensure that everyone has the food they need to thrive. This Hunger Action Month, our hope for the nation is to start building this new reality together, through unified action toward a shared vision of a hunger free America."

Food insecurity in America has reached its highest rate in over a decade, reaching over 47 million people facing hunger, including 14 million children. Of the communities Eastern Illinois Foodbank serves, we see food insecurity range from a low of 9.9% in Piatt County to a high of 16.5% in Coles County.

"Eastern Illinois Foodbank is not immune to the rising costs and limited resources impacting the neighbors we serve," said Foodbank President & CEO Kelly Daly. "This Hunger Action Month, we want everyone to know that no action is too small to make a difference as we work to meet a historic need. Through our generous community coming together, our mission of alleviating hunger for local families is possible."

With the largest cuts to SNAP and Medicaid in history now signed into law, food and health care will soon be further out of reach for millions of people—including children. Hunger in America is a crisis—and together, we can meet this moment.

People can get involved locally through the actions below:

- **Donate** – Visit <https://www.eifoodbank.org/action/donate/> to make a gift to EIF. Every \$1 donated provides three meals to a neighbor experiencing hunger.
- **Volunteer** – Sign up to repack food for local families on Thursday, September 18 at the annual Operation Orange volunteer event at <https://www.mobilize.us/eifoodbank/event/823909/>, or bring the family to volunteer at the Kid Zone repack on Saturday, September 20: <https://www.mobilize.us/eifoodbank/event/824726/>.



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- **Raise Awareness** – Wear orange on Tuesday, September 9 for Hunger Action Day to raise awareness of hunger. Post photos on social media and tag @eifoodbank.

Learn more about how you can take action by visiting [eifoodbank.org](http://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 nearly 200 food pantries, agencies, and other programs throughout our 21-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](http://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](http://feedingamerica.org) to learn more.*