



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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EASTERN ILLINOIS FOODBANK BEGINS DIRECT SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES IN PEORIA AREA

URBANA, IL (July 15, 2025) — Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) announced today that their operations will expand to directly serve neighbors experiencing hunger in Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties.

EIF was formed in 1983 as part of a major regional effort by local citizens to develop an emergency food network in central Illinois. Today, the Foodbank is the largest hunger relief organization in eastern Illinois, serving more than one million neighbors each year through a network of nearly 200 agency partners—including food pantries, soup kitchens, and backpack programs—throughout a 21-county service area.

As a member of Feeding Illinois and the Feeding America network, Eastern Illinois Foodbank collaborates with sister food banks throughout the nation, sharing resources and participating in campaigns that empower them to provide more meals to the communities they serve. After recently completing a capital campaign that allows them to expand into a warehouse adjoined to their original facility, EIF is able to increase efficiency, accommodate more nutritious and fresh product, and extend the number of people they serve.

“Eastern Illinois Foodbank is thrilled to deepen our impact in the Peoria area, and ensure our neighbors facing food insecurity continue receiving healthy meals,” said EIF President & CEO Kelly Daly. “As we’ve worked to meet a historic need for food assistance in recent months, we like to say that the need may be great, but our community is greater. We know that the individuals and organizations who call the Peoria area home are as dedicated as we are to alleviate local hunger and stock the shelves of the pantries serving our neighbors every day.”

At any given time, more than 143,000 people in eastern Illinois don’t know where they will get their next meal, with 1 in 7 Peoria area residents experiencing food insecurity.

To learn more about Eastern Illinois Foodbank, visit eifoodbank.org.

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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 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.