

# Illinois Food and Nutrition Security State Profile

## Overview

According to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service \(USDA ERS\)](#), 9.2% of households in Illinois (IL) experienced food insecurity between 2018-2020. The prevalence of obesity among adults living in Illinois was 32.4% in 2020 as reported by the [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#).

## Demographic Overview

[2019 U.S. Census](#) data reports Illinois has an estimated population of 12.67 million. They identify as White (76.8%), Black (14.6%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.6%), Asian (5.9%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.1%) only. According to the 2019 Census report, 17.5% identify as Hispanic or Latino. 11.5% of Illinois residents experienced poverty in 2019.

## Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC) - IL BRIC Communities

The following counties will be prioritized by the IL BRIC project: St. Clair County, Southern Seven (Alexander and Pulaski), and Peoria County.

## Food Banks, Pantries and Feeding Programs

There are seven food banks that serve Illinois. [Feeding Illinois](#) is the state association that serves Illinois.

- [St. Louis Area FoodBank](#)
  - Serves St. Clair County.
  - Transitional Housing Program: when low-income St. Louis-area families move from temporary housing to a home of their own, the food bank supplies them with 250 to 300 pounds of food and household items to help them get a fresh start.
  - Provides fresh produce through [mobile markets](#) such as Food on the Move, Food Fairs, and Mobile Markets.
  - The food bank also operates CSFP for seniors, emergency food boxes (TEFAP), summer food service sites (SFSP), and partners with [pantries](#) across their service area.
- [Tri-State Food Bank](#)
  - Serves Alexander and Pulaski Counties.
  - View a list of [partner agencies](#).
  - Operates backpack programs, SNAP application assistance, and CSFP.

- [Eastern Illinois Food Bank](#)
  - Serves Peoria County.
  - View a list of [partner agencies](#).
  - Operates mobile distribution school and collegiate pantries, veteran food pantries, and SNAP application assistance.
- [Central Illinois Foodbank](#)
  - Operates Kids Cafe, Summer Food Service Program, and a retail store donation program.
- [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#)
  - Operates the Summer Food Service Program, SNAP application assistance, mobile pantries, senior food boxes, and an online food pantry.
  - Provides nutrition and cooking education.
  - View a list of [partner agencies](#).
- [Greater Chicago Food Depository](#)
  - Provides job training, SNAP application assistance, veterans food pantries, school pantries, Kids Cafe, Summer Food Service Program, and older adults community markets.
  - Provides nutrition education and has nutrition policies for donations.
  - View a list of [partner agencies](#).
- [Riverbend Food Bank](#)
  - Operates a backpack program, school pantry program, senior produce boxes, senior pantry programs, SNAP application assistance, and mobile food pantries.
  - View a list of [partner agencies](#).

## Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

### Healthy Food Incentive Programs

- [Link Up Illinois](#) led by Experimental Station.
- [SNAP Incentive Program](#) led by The Land Connection (TLC).
- [West Town Health Market](#) led by AMITA Health.
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
  - *Current Funding:* Link Up Illinois Statewide Nutrition Incentive Program (2020-2022) led by the [Experimental Station: 6100 Blackstone](#).

### Community Nutrition Education Programs

- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
  - [University of Illinois Extension](#)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED)
  - The Illinois Department of Human Services is the state agency responsible for IL SNAP-Ed. SNAP-Ed implementing agencies include:
    - [University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service](#)
  - View more [information](#).

### **COVID Response**

- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Program resources are available at the [IL Department of Human Services](#).

### **Food (Policy) Coalitions and Councils**

- [Advocates for Urban Agriculture](#)
- [Alliance for Health Equity](#)
- [Chicago Food Policy Action Council](#)
- [Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity](#)
- [Illinois Food Scrap Coalition](#)
- [Illinois Hunger Coalition](#)
- [Illinois Stewardship Alliance](#)
- [Regional Food Council of Central Illinois](#)

### **Other Collaborators to Consider**

- [ChiFresh Kitchen](#) promotes food sovereignty, racial justice, and equitable food access in Chicago.
- [Shriver Center on Poverty Law](#) aims to address issues related to poverty and racism.
- [Urban Growers Collective](#) supports communities in developing systems of their own where food is grown, prepared, and distributed within the community itself.

### **Data Sources and Resources**

- [IL Community Food Map](#) - University of Illinois Extension
- [IL State of Hunger, Poverty and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) - Food Research and Action Center
- [Roadmap to End Hunger in Illinois: From Food Insecurity to Food Equity](#)

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