



The Emergency Food Assistance Program



**DIVISION OF
FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



TEFAP General Overview



What is The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)?

A federal program administered by USDA that helps provide food to low-income residents of Illinois.

Administered at the state level by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).

Assistance is available to anyone who meets the income guidelines based on household size.

TEFAP provides participants with food, and it promises fair, and consistent treatment.



How it works



USDA provides 100% American-grown food and administrative funds to IDHS to operate TEFAP.



IDHS grants funds to 7 Illinois Food Banks to receive, store, and distribute USDA foods to distribution sites (food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters).



Staff and volunteers give USDA foods to qualifying Illinois residents at food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

(There is no federal limitation on how many times an individual can receive TEFAP foods in a month.)



PURPOSE OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY (TANF) FAMILIES

Food Purchase Program

- TANF food purchase program was created by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act codified in 1996.
- TANF, in conjunction with TEFAP, provides an emergency response to hunger and increases food security for low-income households and individuals residing in Illinois.
- TANF funds are federal funds awarded to the IDHS by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- Based upon the availability of TANF funding, food banks purchase nutritional USDA Foods in bulk for distribution to TEFAP contracted participating food pantries.
- Those pantries, in turn, distribute the USDA Foods to TANF-eligible households **with pregnant women and families with one or more dependent children.**




TANF
&
TEFAP

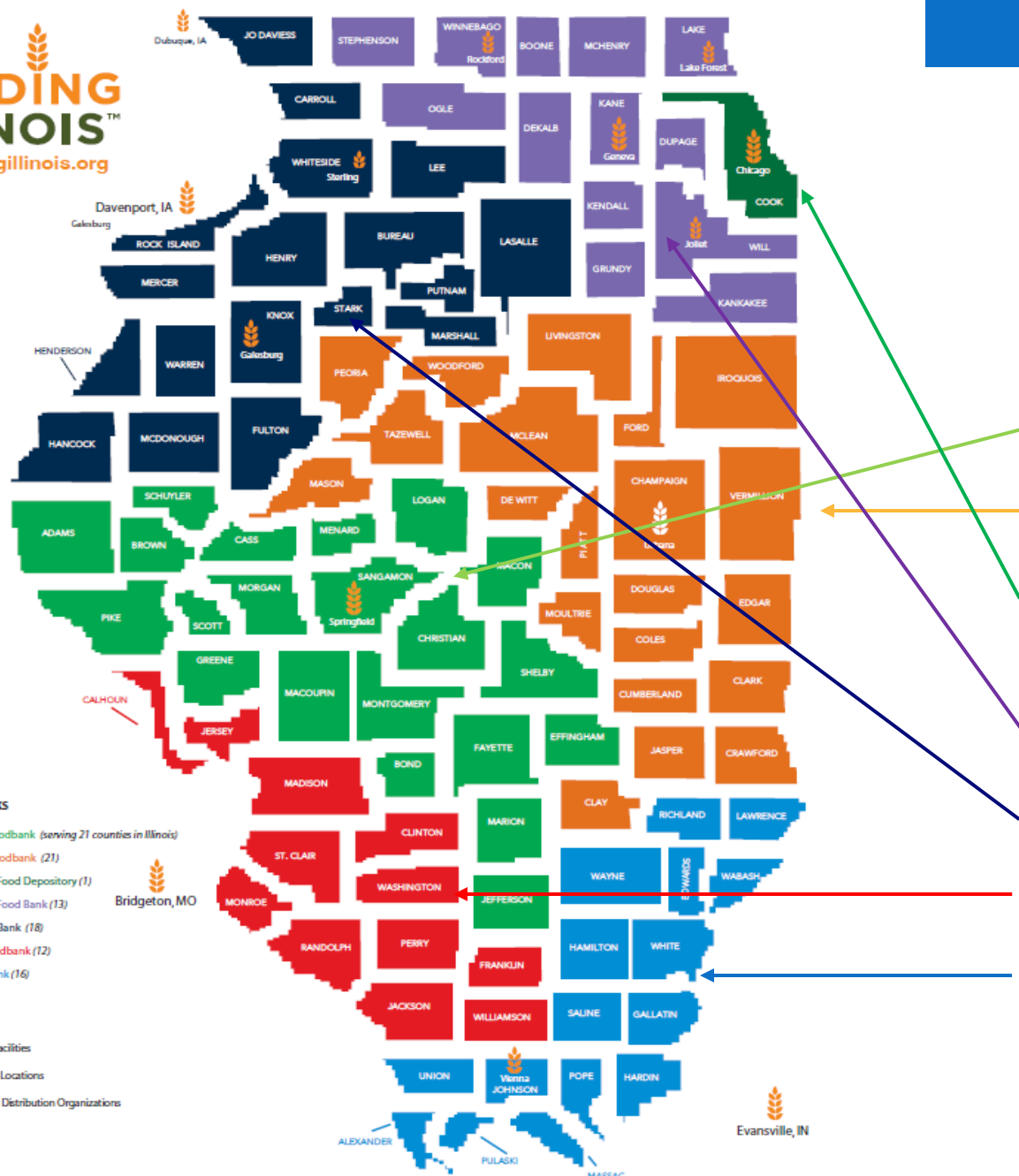


Where are the distribution sites?

MEMBER FOOD BANKS

- Central Illinois Foodbank (serving 21 counties in Illinois)
- Eastern Illinois Foodbank (21)
- Greater Chicago Food Depository (1)
- Northern Illinois Food Bank (13)
- River Bend Food Bank (18)
- St. Louis Area Foodbank (12)
- Tri-State Food Bank (16)

 Food Banks' Main Facilities
 Food Banks' Branch Locations
 Food Banks' Partner Distribution Organizations



Illinois Food Banks	Number Counties
Central Illinois Food Bank:	21
Eastern Illinois Food Bank	21
Greater Chicago Food Depository	1
Northern Illinois Food Bank	13
River Bend Foodbank	18
St. Louis Area Food Bank, Inc.	12
Tri-State Food Bank, Inc.	16
	102



Link to IDHS Food Connections

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=31245>

- Find Food Illinois - Use the Find Food II Map to find places in your community offering free food or meals. [Find Food Illinois Map](#)
- Illinois Food Banks - Provides an alphabetic listing of all Illinois The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) distribution sites.
- Feeding Illinois - Feeding Illinois is the association of Feeding America Food banks that serve Illinois.

Connect to one of our 7 Food Banks to find food in a county near you:

- Central Illinois Foodbank
Counties served: Adams, Bond, Brown, Cass, Christian, Effingham, Fayette, Greene, Jefferson, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Marion, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby

- Eastern Illinois Food Bank
Counties served: Champaign, Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Jasper, Livingston, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, Vermilion, Woodford
- Greater Chicago Food Depository
County served: Cook
- Northern Illinois Food Bank
Counties served: Boone, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Will, Winnebago
- River Bend Food Bank
Counties served: Bureau, Carroll, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Jo Daviess, Knox, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, McDonough, Mercer, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Warren, Whiteside
- St. Louis Area Food Bank
Counties served: Calhoun, Clinton, Franklin, Jackson, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington, Williamson
- Tri-State Food Bank
Counties served: Alexander, Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Lawrence, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, and White



An additional community resource: Find Food Illinois Community Food Map

Offers a search engine to help you find places in your community offering free food or meals, including school and summer meal sites.


It also lists stores, retailers, and markets that accept SNAP/LINK or WIC coupons.

And IDHS or WIC offices near you where you can sign up to receive benefits.

Go to <https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/>
Enter your zip code.

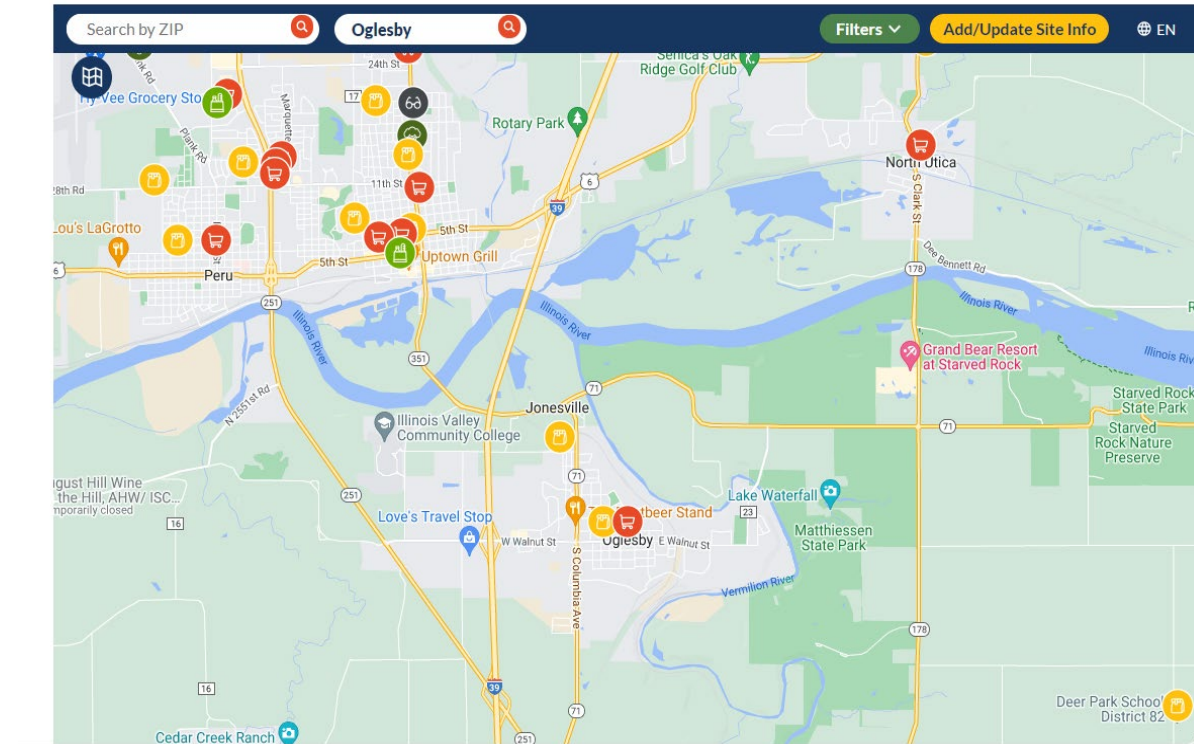
- Click on the blue map icon to see all the locations in your area.
- Narrow your search by using the resource type button.
- Be sure you call ahead to verify the hours of operation.



 Click on the blue map icon to see all of the locations in your area in a list.

Filters Use the filter button to narrow your search to certain types of food resources.

Note: School & Summer Meal Sites will switch to school meal programs only on August 15, 2023.



<https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/>



Feeding Illinois keeps their website updated to provide a food bank directory and other resources.

www.feedingillinois.org

Looking for your local food bank?

Feeding Illinois is the state association of Feeding America food banks, working together to fight hunger across every corner of the state.

Below, you'll find contact information for our partner food banks, trusted community hubs that help neighbors access the food they need, when they need it.

Because every meal starts with connection.



Food Banks must keep this Illinois TEFAP distribution site list resource updated:

[Home](#)
[Find USDA Food at:](#)

- [Food Pantries](#)
- [Soup Kitchens](#)
- [Homeless Shelters](#)

[USDA Commodity Info](#)
[Members](#)
[AMS Purchase Order Info](#)
[Feeding Illinois website](#)

Illinois Pantries, Soup Kitchens and Homeless Shelters USDA TEFAP Participants

Alphabetic listing of all Illinois Emergency Food Program distribution sites. This list includes Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens and Homeless Shelters.
[Alphabetic list of all sites.](#)

- OR -

Below is a filter for retrieving a specific range of food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

Please click [here](#) to show and hide instructions.

Filter By:

- ☐ City
- ☐ Site Name
- ☐ County
- ☐ Foodbank
- ☐ Type

City

Site Name

County

Foodbank

Type

Display type: ☒ Columnar ☐ List ☐ Excel List

Submit

home | find food | USDA commodity info | member login | AMS purchase order info | Feeding Illinois website

Visit www.illinoisfoodbanks.org
to find pantries, soup kitchens and
shelters in Illinois



Eligibility Determination (application) process



Distribution sites should provide a location that allows for privacy, if possible.



Distribution site staff or volunteers should record date and number of individuals served at each food site.



During distribution, the neighbor or volunteer completes the Eligibility Sheet in full. This includes name, residency requirements, number in household, and self-declaration of income and/or adjunct eligibility through participation in SNAP.



Re-Verification of Eligibility: A neighbor must verbally attest at each visit that their household income meets income eligibility guidelines.



TEFAP Program Requirements for Distribution Site:

- ✓ *Determine potential participant eligibility based on income and residence in Illinois.
 - All recipients must be residents of Illinois. A minimum length of stay is not required.
 - Out of state neighbors may be served the first time but must be advised to return to their own state for participation in TEFAP in subsequent visits.
- ✓ Allow proxy representation for the participant.
- ✓ Strive to serve unhoused neighbors and provide foods that are appropriate and easy to use and prepare.
- ✓ Provide referrals for assistance in obtaining documentation and other services.

**All Illinois residents that meet income requirements must be served without regard to address.*



TEFAP Income Eligibility Guidelines

Per 7 CFR 251.5(b)

- Self-attestation (no proof is required) of income at or below 300% Federal Poverty Line (FPL).
- Certification of eligibility is valid for 1 year.
- Any changes in household circumstances must be reported immediately. Making false statements may subject neighbor to removal of program.

Sample Eligibility Sheet
(subject to change)



State of Illinois
Department of Human Services

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - ELIGIBILITY SHEET (E-Sheet)
INCOME ELIGIBILITY BASED ON 300% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

DHS MAXIMUM MONTHLY GROSS INCOME FOR RECEIPT OF USDA COMMODITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 (JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025)										
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Monthly Income										
For households with more than 10 persons, add \$1,375 for each additional person up to 300% of the FPL.										

Food Bank: _____ Date: _____

Household Size	Recipient Name	Residence Pantry Service Area (Yes/No) If "No", complete Residence Box 2.	Residence Box 2 County or Zip Code	TANF Food Number of Children under 18Y	Do you verify that you meet the income requirements?	Do you receive SNAP? (Adjunct Eligibility)
----------------	----------------	---	--	--	---	---

					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Pantry: _____ Address: _____

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement | Food and Nutrition Service: In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the institution to obtain such information. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Soup Kitchens and Shelters

- No eligibility form is needed for shelters and soup kitchens using USDA food.
 - Organizations that provide prepared meals must demonstrate that they serve predominantly needy persons, and all participating neighbors are presumed eligible.
- Must collect service statistics to report total number of participants served and numbers of meals served.

[7 CFR 251.5\(a\)\(2\)](#)



Verification Of Residency – Service Areas

For those with service areas try this:

- Display a map with your service area and have the neighbor self-attest to residing within the boundaries of the service area map.
 - If they reside outside of the service area boundary but are otherwise determined eligible, provide USDA Foods to them before referring them elsewhere for future distribution.
 - If the participant returns to this site and continue to be eligible, they must be served even if they reside outside of your service area.



Distribution Sites:

- SHALL NOT request information other than what is on the form.
 - An address can be requested **post-eligibility** determination if required for other program participation or for home delivery.
- SHALL NOT request birthdates or social security number.
- SHALL NOT require signature, proof of income, residency documentation, identification card, piece of mail, citizenship documents or any such similar document.
- SHALL NOT impose any eligibility requirements beyond those established in the TEFAP Policy Manual for neighbors.
- SHALL NOT request participant waivers to release personal information not required by TEFAP.
- SHALL NOT share information about distribution site neighbors with other food pantries or anyone else outside of location.
- SHALL NOT limit distribution of USDA Foods to a certain subset of the eligible population. (For example, a food pantry located within or near a senior center and that participates in TEFAP, is not able to limit distribution of USDA Foods to only seniors; rather, they must serve eligible populations of all ages).
- SHALL NOT distribute TEFAP food at detention centers for youth serving sentences for criminal offenses. (Most youth shelters are eligible to receive USDA food as charitable institutions serving primarily needy people).



[7 CFR 251\(b\)\(3\)](#)

Residency Requirements (home delivery)

Did you know?

Distribution sites may deliver to homebound participants!

- In this case, you would clearly need their address.
- The additional information cannot be required to receive USDA Foods.
 - It must be made clear the additional collection of information is unrelated to TEFAP eligibility, and the receipt of USDA Foods is not conditional on providing the information.
 - TEFAP applicants and participants must have the option of not providing the additionally requested information.
 - In general, additional information should only be collected from households once the eligibility determination for TEFAP has been made and communicated to the household.

- [7 CFR 251.5\(b\)\(3\)](#)



Definition of Household

- A household:
 - is a single person or group of people, related or not.
 - lives as one economic group, purchasing and preparing food together.
- Multiple households may reside at one address.



Confidentiality

7 CFR 251.10(c)(1)

- Confidential applicant and participation information includes information provided during the intake process for TEFAP eligibility purposes.
 - (e.g., name, number of persons in the household, household income) AND information collected from TEFAP applicants and participants for purposes unrelated to TEFAP eligibility (e.g., date of birth, occupation, education level, household address).
 - The use of electronic systems in TEFAP is permitted if the systems can properly ensure the protection of applicant and participant information



Proxy Statement

- A proxy is a person(s) designated by a neighbor to pick up TEFAP food on their behalf.
- One or more person(s) may be designated as a proxy.

Here is the proxy statement
(subject to change)




State of Illinois -

Department of Human Services

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - PROXY STATEMENT

Receipt of Pantry Commodities State Fiscal Year 2025 INCOME ELIGIBILITY BASED ON 300% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE

This form must be presented at the distribution site by the proxy picking up TEFAP food for the participant. Proxies may be assigned in cases where there is undue hardship for the TEFAP participant to pick up food.

TEFAP Participant: _____	Household Size: _____
Residence: Pantry service area? Yes or No: _____ If answering "No", then: _____	Number of children in household 18 years or younger: _____
Enter your zip code or county: _____	SNAP Recipient: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

DHS MAXIMUM MONTHLY GROSS INCOME FOR RECEIPT OF USDA COMMODITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025										
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Monthly Income	\$0,010	\$5,200	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$9,110	\$10,700	\$12,100	\$13,500	\$14,010	\$15,200

For households with more than 10 persons, add \$1,375 for each additional person up to 300% of the FPL.

Name of Proxy: _____

Name of Pantry: _____

Address of Pantry: _____
Address City State

My household monthly gross income does not exceed DHS established limits; the information I have provided above is accurate and true; I will use food received for household consumption only; and I release USDA, the State of Illinois and any agency or person distributing food from all liabilities resulting from receipt of food.

Signature of TEFAP Participant _____ Date _____

Signature of Proxy _____ Date _____

Signature of Pantry Personnel _____ Date _____



If An Applicant Declares Income that is Too High

They are
ineligible for
TEFAP.

You may still
provide non-
USDA foods.

They may
reapply if
income changes.



Accommodations and Civil Rights

- *TEFAP is a federal food program and open to all qualifying participants. Civil rights laws apply.
- The following accommodations are required:
 - Language translation/interpretation for limited English proficiency applicants and participants.
 - Wheelchair ramps or other assistance for applicants and participants with limited mobility.

*For more detailed information on civil rights requirements refer to USDA civil rights training. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cr/cacfp-civil-rights-training>

**You
have
rights**



Site Staff/Volunteers Receiving USDA Foods

- Distribution site staff and volunteers may receive USDA foods if they meet TEFAP eligibility requirements
- They must complete the eligibility sheet like any other neighbor.
- They cannot receive preferential treatment or extra food.
 - Volunteers may only get TEFAP food during a distribution, not during other hours.





Connecting with TEFAP FOOD BANKS



Food banks
keep their
websites
updated with
distribution site
information



FIND A FOOD PANTRY

Do you need food? We're here to help! River Bend Food Bank's network has food pantries and meal sites in cities across our 23-county service area. Find one close to you today!

[START HERE](#)



Search by address city, state or zip code to find a distribution site near you:

815 N Orlando Smith St, Oglesby, IL 61348

Use my Location

More Filters

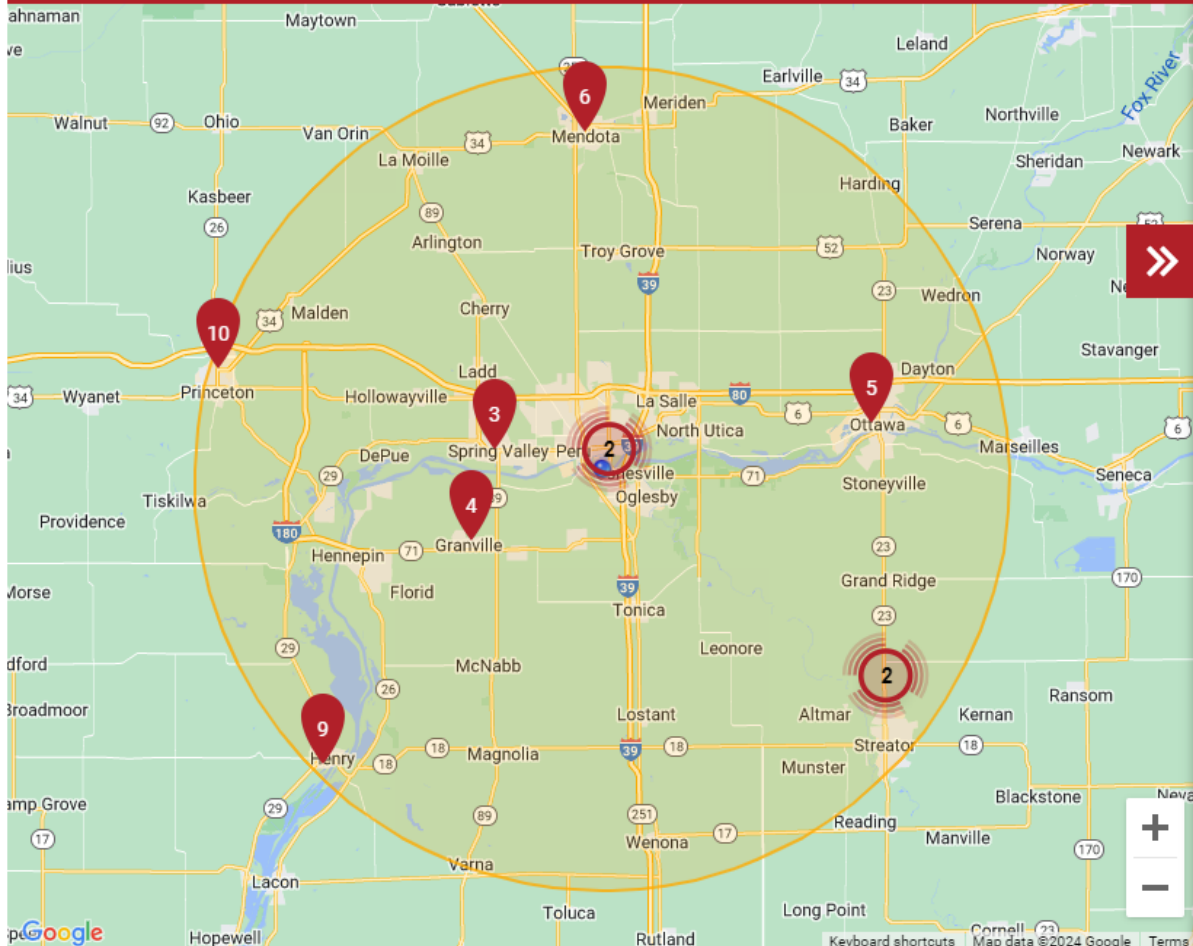
Filters

Open Today

Radius

Days Open

Clear Filters



10 locations found

Download in English

1

Illinois Valley Food Pantry

122 Wright Street (1.5 Miles)
La Salle, IL 61301
815-224-3658

Hours & Programs

More Information

Directions

Call

2

Shepherd's Closet and Food Pantry

2901 N. Peoria Street (2.1 Miles)
Peru, IL 61354
815-220-0914

Hours & Programs

More Information

Directions

Call

3

Hall Township Food Pantry

500 N Terry St (5.47 Miles)
Spring Valley, IL 61362
815-663-2085

Hours & Programs

More Information

Directions

Call

Prev

Results 1-10

Next

POWERED BY

vivary

[Privacy Policy](#)

Partner Video

Thank you again for wanting to learn more about TEFAP. Please stay tuned for a video from our community partner, Northern Illinois Food Bank, highlighting the incredible work being done at Northern and across the state of Illinois!



**NEIGHBORS.
EMPOWERED.**



