



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northern Illinois Food Bank to Host Emergency Pop-Up Food Distribution in Rockford

*Drive-Through Mobile to Serve Approximately 750 Households Amid Increased
Need*

ROCKFORD, IL (May 12, 2026) - Illinois officials estimate 120,000 Illinoisans will lose their SNAP benefits this month. In response to changes and growing food insecurity across the region, [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) will host an **emergency pop-up drive-through mobile food distribution on Saturday, May 16, from 9 to 11 a.m. rain or shine** at the Food Bank's Northwest Center, located at 1397 Sandy Hollow Road, Rockford, IL 61102.

Northern Illinois Food Bank to Host Emergency Pop-Up Food Distribution in Rockford Drive-Through Mobile Market to Serve Approximately 750 Households Amid Increased Need

ROCKFORD, Ill. — In response to changes in SNAP benefits and growing food insecurity across the region, Northern Illinois Food Bank will host an emergency pop-up drive-through mobile food distribution on Saturday, May 16, from 9 to 11 a.m. rain or shine at the Food Bank's Northwest Center, located at 1397 Sandy Hollow Road, Rockford, IL 61102.

The special distribution coincides with Good Neighbor Day America and America250, a nationwide day of service mobilizing thousands of volunteer events across all 50 states, Washington D.C., and U.S. territories. Together, the initiatives aim to inspire 250 million acts of kindness through projects including food drives, neighborhood cleanups, care package assemblies, community garden builds, charity walks, and more — making it one of the largest coordinated service days in American history.

Due to changes in SNAP benefits, Northern Illinois Food Bank is preparing to serve an estimated 35,000 additional neighbors in May and June, resulting in approximately 1 million additional meals needed during this time period.

Northern Illinois Food Bank reports that Winnebago County ranks fourth among its 13-county service area for the highest number of SNAP recipients at risk of losing benefits, impacting an estimated 6,220 families.

To help meet the growing need, 60 community volunteers will assist in distributing free groceries to approximately 750 households during the drive-through mobile market. The event is designed to provide immediate relief for families impacted by rising food costs and changes in federal food assistance.

“No one should have to choose between paying bills and putting food on the table,” said Julie Yurko, President and CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank. “As more families face uncertainty and increased financial strain, we are committed to ensuring our neighbors have access to nutritious food and support during this critical time. We’re grateful to the volunteers and community partners stepping up on this national day of service to help care for our neighbors.”

The distribution is open to anyone in need and will operate on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. No ID or registration is required. Neighbors are encouraged to arrive early.

Event Details

Emergency Pop-Up Mobile Food Distribution
Saturday, May 16
9 – 11 a.m. (Rain or Shine)
Northern Illinois Food Bank Northwest Center
1397 Sandy Hollow Rd.
Rockford, IL 61102
For more information about how to donate, volunteer, or access groceries, visit
SolveHungerToday.org

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ABOUT NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

For over 40 years, Northern Illinois Food Bank has been dedicated to solving hunger and empowering neighbors. Our vision at [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) is for everyone in Northern Illinois to have the food they need to thrive. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and proud member of [Feeding America](#), we serve our neighbors in 13 counties with dignity, equity and convenience, providing 320,000 meals a day. We bring together manufacturers, local and corporate grocers, area farmers, corporations, foundations, and individuals who donate food and funding, and each week nearly 1,000 volunteers help us evaluate, repack, and distribute food. We

also proudly partner with more than 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and youth and senior feeding programs to provide nutritious food and resources. Our distribution centers are located in Geneva, Lake Forest, Rockford and Joliet. Find out how you can [get help](#), [volunteer](#), [donate](#) or [get involved](#) at SolveHungerToday.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), TikTok, [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).