

Illinois South Conference Numbers of Food Insecure Persons

	2018 data	# Persons	% of Population	2020	Covid-19 data
Bond (Hookdale)	1890		11.1%	15%	
Christian (Pana)	3660		10.9%	15.5%	
Clay (Bible Grove)	1460		10.9%	17.5%	
Clinton (Breese, Carlyle, Jamestown, New Baden, Trenton)	3120		8.3%	13.6%	
Fayette (Farina)	2700		12.3%	18.8%	
Jackson (Carbondale, Murphysboro)	10,420		8.3%	19.8%	
Jersey (Brighton, Fieldon, Jerseyville)	2030		9.2%	14.3%	
Macoupin (Carlinville, Staunton)	4880		10.6%	15.9%	
Madison (Alhambra, Collinsville, Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Grant Fork, Godfrey, Hamel, Highland, Marine, Moro, St. Jacob, Troy, Wood River)	30,920		11.6%	16%	
Marion (Centralia)	4840		12.6%	18.1%	
Monroe (Columbia, Hecker, Maeystown, New Hanover, St. Joe, Valmeyer, Waterloo)	2284		6.7%	10.5%	
Montgomery (Ohlman)	3540		12.1%	17.4%	
Perry (DuQuoin, Pinckneyville)	2690		12.5%	18.6%	
Randolph (Red Bud, Evansville)	3630		11.1%	15.9%	
St. Clair (Belleville, Cahokia, Darmstadt, Dupo, E. St. Louis, Fairview Hgts, Floraville, Freeburg, Lebanon, Lenzburg, Marissa, Mascoutah, New Athens, O'Fallon, Smithton, Summerfield)	41,100		15.5%	17.7%	
Shelby (Tower Hill)	2150		9.8%	14.5%	
Washington (Addieville, Biddleborn, DuBois, Hoyleton, Irvington, Johannsburg, Nashville, Okawville, Plum Hill, Stone Church)	1210		8.5%	12.8%	
Williamson (Marion)	8090		12%	17.8%	

All 2018 and June 2020 data supplied by Feeding America.org

Illinois South Conference Hunger Action Team

- Margie Lindhorst, Chairperson, St. Paul UCC, Columbia 618-281-4090
- Pat Morris, Past Chairperson, St. John UCC, Smithton 618-476-3481
- Sue Tinge, Vice Chairperson/Recording Secretary 618-624-3049
Christ UCC, Belleville
- Linda Schaller, Corresponding Secretary 618-939-4244
St. Paul UCC, Waterloo
- Pastor Carol Shanks (retired) 618-939-4835
- Earl Grotefendt, Grantfork UCC, Grantfork 618-675-2765
- Pastor David Krueger (retired)
- Karen Pepmeier – Bethel, Cahokia

Email grant requests to Margie Lindhorst mlind@htc.net

Please mail contributions payable to ISC Hunger Action Fund

Illinois South Conference Hunger Action Fund

1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249



ISC HUNGER ACTION FUND

For I was Hungry, and you fed me...



- Community Interfaith Pantry – Belleville
- Good Shepherd of Faith Garden – E. St. Louis
- Urban Orchard Good Shepherd of Faith/Gateway Greening
- Week-end Backpack
- Twigs Summer Lunch–Bethel-Cahokia, Christ Church/ 1st Congr Dupo
- Uni-Pres Kindercottage/St. Louis Foodbank
- Blessing Box – Zion Marion

Illinois South Conference Food Programs

The Hunger Action Team has a 45-year history of supporting ISC congregations with feeding hungry people within Southern Illinois. Donations to this fund enable ISC to provide grants to local food pantries supported by ISC churches; to assist with week-end back-pack programs and summer food programs for children; to establish and maintain community gardens providing fruits and vegetables to our neighbors; to aid with disaster relief food programs and much more. **New ideas are wanted and welcome.** To receive a grant for your food program, contact Margie Lindhorst, chairman. mlind@htc.net 618-281-4090. Email a request with a short description of the project and your church's connection to the project.

Donations to the Hunger Action Fund can be made directly to the Illinois South Conference Office.

See pages 2 and 4 for the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Illinois Food Insecurity

Covid-19 Effects on Food Insecurity and How You Can Help

The Covid-19 pandemic has wiped out a decade of progress made to decrease food insecurity in Illinois. Illinois had almost reached pre-Great Recession of 2008 levels of 10.1% of Illinoisans food insecurity.

2020 is predicted to reach 15.1% food insecurity for all of Illinois.

However, food insecurity is higher in rural areas and in almost all the counties covered by the Illinois South Conference. (See last page for data for your area.)

Of food insecure Illinoisans, **over 35% do not qualify for any federal, state, county programs.** Churches and other non-profits are struggling to fill this gap. (Data from Feeding America/Dr. Craig Gunderson, College of Agriculture, Consumer, Environment at University of Illinois.)

How you can help:

- 1. Volunteer at your local food pantry.** Many tasks are non-contact: stocking shelves, filling boxes.
Volunteer through a harvest gleaning program. See [St. Andrews Society.org](http://St.AndrewsSociety.org), USDA Farm to Table program, endhunger.org
- 2. Donate.** Pantries/foodbanks have partnerships which enable them to buy more food than you can purchase with the same amount of money on a retail food donation. Any donation – food or money - is needed and greatly appreciated.
- 3. Advocate.** Contact elected officials to protect and increase SNAP (foodstamps) which is the first line of defense against hunger.
- 4. Fundraise.**
- 5. End food waste in your own household..** Donate extra garden produce to your local food pantry. Don't buy more than you can use. Before the pandemic, 40% of food produced in the United States ended up in landfills. The pandemic has highlighted and increased food distribution problems that already existed.

Donors are protected by the *Federal Good Samaritan Act* and benefit by tax law for “enhanced deduction.”

Advocacy and Education



3 Great Loves: Seeds for Children

To promote the United Church of Christ 3 Great Loves campaign, the ISC Hunger Action Team initiated 3 Great Loves: Seeds for Children. The mission provides funds for ISC congregations to purchase vegetable/fruit seeds and transplants for the children of the church to plant “at home” gardens with their families. Their harvest can be shared with family, neighbors, local food pantries. With the Covid-19 “Stay at Home” rules and the resultant cancellation of church programs including Vacation Bible School, the seeds program reminds children that their church family loves them and is thinking of them during this time apart. Eleven ISC churches participated.



Operation Food Search serves Southern Illinois

Free food for child nutrition programs on week-ends (backpack programs), in summer, after school. Nutrition education including cooking classes at schools, churches, community centers.

www.operationfoodsearch.org

Bread for the World

Food banks and private charities provide only 1 out of every 20 bags of groceries that feed people who are hungry. Federal and State governments provide the rest.

Write your members of Congress. Urge them to:

- *continue strong investment in child nutrition
- *improve children’s access to feeding programs



Go to www.bread.org to learn how you and your church can participate in the 2020/21 Offering of Letters to Congress.



Metro-East Food Pantry Coalition

This is a coalition of area food pantry leaders organized by the University of Illinois Extension. Programs are presented quarterly at the Collinsville office and include representatives from the St. Louis Foodbank. Two recent programs covered food safety and verbal de-escalation techniques for defusing verbal and/or violent situations.

Contact Katrina Galati: kgalati@illinois.edu

Foodbank **St. Louis Area Foodbank serves Southern Illinois**

St. Louis Area Foodbank Food for free or at drastically reduced cost for partner agencies: food pantries, soup kitchens, senior centers, etc. CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) for low-income seniors. School Pantry Program. Mobile Distribution of fresh perishable food at food fairs and STL Foodbank Mobile Truck market. www.stlfoodbank.org