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And I hope that this series provides an opportunity to learn more about our programming, the state of hunger in our community, and to connect deeper with one another. Whether you're joining us as a volunteer, a donor, or just somebody who wants to be in the know about what's going on in our world

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Thank you for being here. We'll have some time for questions at the end, so please use the Q&A function on the toolbar, which you can see here in the picture. It's right down at the bottom of the presentation and we'll get to that at the end

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So first thing I want to start with is some pretty startling news from our friends at the Greater Chicago Food Depository. They recently released their 2026 Hunger in Chicago Report. As you know or may know, the federal government has stopped measuring these statistics

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This is really an important report for us to pay attention to because it's some of the only data that we can get around these factors that are impacting our community.

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The Greater Chicago Food Depository, in case you're not aware, is our food bank. So, it serves Cook County, and that's where we receive some of our food and support from is the Great Chicago Food Depository.

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They provide food to pantries, soup kitchens, mobile food centers, etc. And they are under the umbrella of Feeding America. So that's kind of how the relationship works between all of our organizations.

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This report, though, it's thoroughly researched and they conduct surveys and they are able to tell us more statistics about how hunger is impacting our region.

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And as you probably could guess, it's really the results are really startling. So in previous years, we were used to saying one in four Chicago households was considered food insecure

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And food insecurity is measured through a set of circumstances. There's usually 2 questions. One question is about, you know, in the last whatever period of time week, have you wondered where your next meal is coming from, or have you skipped a meal?

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And we know that people need plenty of food to be able to live their lives, and if they don't have food, it's really hard to do just about anything else, work, find housing, find other supports if you don'tâ€ if you're not able to be consistently nourished

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So as of June of 2026, that number moved from 1 to 4 to 1 in 3. So 36% of households reporting that they do not have consistent access to food

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And one of the other things I'll highlight, too, is just the stress that comes with not knowing where your next meal will come from. That's happening to one in three households

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Even, I guess, more startling or concerning is that one in two households with children are considered food insecure. That's really staggering to think about that one in two households that have children are struggling to find out where their next meal is coming from

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The other things that were found out in this report is that 56% of adults in food insecure households are employed. This is really an important statistic as many people, as you may hear in the media or even from the federal government that people who

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Don't, you know, that are receiving SNAP benefits or coming to a food pantry need to work. Most people are working, they're just not able to make enough money to make ends meet. So I think that's an important statistic for all of us to know, is that 56% of those folks are employed

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And another startling statistic is that 31% of Chicagoans have reported skipping payments on other essentials, so like healthcare, rent, gas, utilities to pay for food, which is, you know, just we know that this problem is only going to get worse

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So our numbers have increased for people utilizing our programming since 2023, and we continue to serve a record number of families.

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Just last November, as many of you probably know, we served about 1,200 individuals in just one day. And that's just something that we've never seen before. I've personally never seen before. That is a staggering number

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And we also served a record number of more than 2,000 households for that month alone. And that number is usually more about 1,200. So that's quite a leap.

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Some of the reasons this is happening is a lot of changes to SNAP, Medicaid. We're going to talk a little bit more about Medicaid in a minute

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cost of living, which I think all of us probably are impacted by around groceries and fuel, it just seems like the cost just keeps going up and up and up.

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And we're really gearing up to meet this need. Food pantries and Beyond Hunger is just the same. We are just responsive to what is happening. We have to be ready to go. We have to be ready to meet the need of folks who might be coming to a food pantry for the first time or returning back to us or the folks who

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Maybe you're on a fixed income, and it will likely need us for some period of time. We have about 1200 active volunteers, so shout out to any volunteers on this call. We super appreciate you. We could not do what we do. I'm trying to remember the statistic of how many full-time staff that is. I believe it's

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15 to 18 full-time staff just through those active volunteers. The generosity of our donors, so every dollar is three meals. So if you give us a dollar, we can turn that into three meals, which is pretty incredible. But our donors and our community really make this work possible

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In our annual food drives, which there are some that are happening now, there are some that will be happening when the holidays are coming, so we really appreciate our community support.

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We also have been working internally to increase our food rescue partnerships, so food that is close to date or that the grocery stores can't use, they give to us. So we have a new partner for the Aldi on Harlem Avenue.

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And we're looking forward to our new home, which I know many of you know about that as well. And that permanent home will have much more storage for food. It'll have a better shopping experience for the folks that are coming, and it'll have our community kitchen. And so we know that that space will really

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Increase our ability to serve more people in a very dignified way

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So an update on that quickly is that we have finalized our general contractor for the space. And are looking forward to sharing more construction updates. If you're near the building, you might be seeing a little more action there. More contractors coming by, getting us ready for our demolition of the space

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And then construction

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And we are also just really lucky to have dedicated staff that are committed to keeping our programs running and our community informed. And I'm really excited today because Lorena is joining us. She is one of our benefits access

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Coordinators, and she works to help people sign up people for SNAP and Medicaid. And what's been happening lately are people like Lorena are having to do a lot more work to understand this really, you know, Hr. One or the big beautiful bill are really complicated. So the changes to SNAP and the changes to Medicaid are

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In my opinion, purposely hard to understand. And so Lorena and Ida, who are our two benefits case managers, are working with the community to make sure they understand these changes and making sure that people who are on these benefits can continue to stay on them

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And so Lorena is joining me today for a little chat about what's going to be happening with Medicaid. So more news on that. So first of all

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Thanks, Lorena, for joining us. And can you just give us a quick overview of some of the many programs that your team assists the folks with?

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Of course, I'm happy to be joining this first virtual town hall. And for any volunteers, you might see me and Ida in the corner during distribution hours, but I'm one of two benefit services coordinators, and what we do is we help people apply for benefits

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local, state, and federal programs like SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, Cash Assistance for people with young children in the homes, or people with disabilities. We also help with the RTA bus permits and the license plate discount, access to care, and people needing assistance

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paying for their first-time state ID or renewing their state ID so that they can access these other benefits, because as you know, you need a state ID to

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to gain access to a lot of these benefits.

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And for those who might be unfamiliar with SNAP, can you give us an overview of the program?

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Yeah, so SNAP is our biggest anti-hunger program in the nation. And SNAP refers to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It was formerly known as STAMPS. Some people might know it as LINK now because the card where they receive their benefits

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It says link on there, it's known as a link card. And eligibility for this program is based on household size, income, and allowable expenses. And using this information, they, the IDHS, or Illinois Department of Human Services will determine the monthly allotment

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that each eligible household will receive on that link card. The link card is an electronic transfer card that operates like a preloaded debit card, and they'll receive their monthly allotment

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So that they can use that card to purchase groceries. And these SNAP dollars can only be used on food that is meant to be prepared, so they cannot buy prepared or hot foods like rotisserie chicken, for example. They cannot buy that, and they cannot buy non-food items

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Like toilet paper or diapers

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I think that's such a good thing to point out, Lorena, because a lot of people don't understand that nuance that there are so many things that SNAP will not cover and people cannot use for things that we know would be helpful, like toilet paper. You're even having hot food if you are unhoused or if you're like me and love using a rotisserie chicken for a lot of your recipes

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Can you share some of the changes that have occurred to the SNAP program? I know a lot of things have happened in the last year.

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Yeah, so in February, February 1st, 2026 of this year, a new change came into effect that required certain groups of SNAP recipients to meet a work requirement in order to continue receiving benefits

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And this work requirement basically calls for any able-bodied adults without dependents, so anyone 18 to 64 who does not have a disability or a dependent in the home to work 80 hours a month

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They can also meet this work requirement by volunteering, doing community work, being enrolled in school part-time, being enrolled in a work program, which could be mandated by the Illinois Department of Human Services

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Or it could be another qualifying program

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And for those that did not meet that work requirement within the 3 months that they were given, they did lose their benefits May 1st, 2026. So those are the big changes that you might have seen people talk about this year

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Yeah, so since January of 2025, SNAP participation has declined by over 5 million individuals. And in Illinois, it's declined by over 250,000 individuals.

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And I just want to point out to everyone on the call that, you know, really food pantries cannot make up the difference to SNAP. You know, SNAP and food pantries are really meant to work together as a benefit to the folks we're serving. So that's an important fact because we just this

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The emergency food system cannot make up that difference.

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In your conversations with folks who have used SNAP, what are you hearing about these changes and how is your team helping? And how have you seen more people needing assistance with understanding SNAP?

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Well, I think the theme we've seen with people that come to our food pantry, or people who are coming in because they were referred

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For help with SAP is the fact that there's so much confusion, there are so many people who were confused about whether these changes and these new work rules apply to them. They were confused by the wording under notices that they received and whether they had to take some action in order to receive benefits, and how

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Would that action be taken? Do I need to go into the office? Can I do this on my own? So there's been a lot of questions about whether someone's impacted or not.

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Another thing is that

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We have been hearing from local partners or local organizations that they didn't know how to help their own clients, and so they've reached out to us because they look to us for our expertise in SNAP to kind of train their staff or teach their staff about these changes and how do we work together to help

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Our community members navigate these changes by referring to each other. So there's just that confusion both amongst SNAP recipients

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People who did not have SNAP before but had been planning to apply and now are seeing that these changes have come into effect, and they don't know if their work qualifies. And then again, other social service workers, helping clients who may be on SNAP

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And one thing about the changes is that there are exemptions and that there's many different activities that fall under work meeting the work requirement

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And so what we've had to do is really

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Use a set of questions to kind of determine whether the person that we're speaking to falls under any work requirement that maybe is not traditional work, but maybe they're helping at their local church. And so that's a work, you know, that's a work activity

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Same thing with not having a dependent or a disability, but this person may have another type of exemption. So we're just asking the set of personalized questions to determine whether people fall into any categories and then

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helping them submit any documentation that is needed, because that's really the difficult part for a lot of our clients.

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Yeah, and the change went from yearly people were having to redetermine their SNAP benefits and go into the DHS office and do that. And now it's every six months. And that's extra

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making sure people are on top of their paperwork and all their documentation and meeting with you to make sure that they're getting those things in on time, so they don't lose their benefits. But it's just another example of trying to make this process harder for folks to stay on programs like SNAP.

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So we're coming up on one year since SNAP was abruptly paused, so if you all missed it or want to go back in time to last November

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SNAP benefits were shut off and it was pretty historic that that really isn't something that's happened in the past. And it caused, you know, I would say lingering problems and concerns for folks that that could just happen. And that's why we saw that really record-breaking day of people coming to us for our distribution.

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So we're going to see some changes with Medicaid now, unfortunately, and Lorena, you've done a good job of educating us on the fact that the amount of people impacted in Illinois is going to be even larger than the people that were impacted through SNAP.

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Can you tell us a little more about that and then just how is your team preparing for this change?

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Yeah, well, we've seen a small group of people. It wasn't everyone who was able-bodied without dependents that lost their SNAP, but we still saw a substantial number of people who lost their SNAP benefits and we anticipate that the effects of that

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We're only gonna grow now that we have a new set of people losing their Medicaid as well. And a lot of the people losing their Medicaid will also have been people that have lost their SNAP because the requirements are similar, and it's the same age group that's being affected

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So we're just anticipating that people are going to be needing more assistance with benefits, trying to regain their benefits if they're eligible, and needing access to other resources and programs. And the way we'reâ€¦ what we're doing to

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kind of prepare for that is gathering as many resources as we can. We're trying to find alternative options to Medicaid for anyone who will lose their coverage through Medicaid, and we're just trying to work with other community organizations to

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To be in the know of what they offer at their organizations, what programs and services may be of benefit to our clients.

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Yeah, thank you for that. And I just really appreciate the work that you're doing. I'm seeing this in front of our town hall today, but I think that educating people about this is so important because it is so purposely confusing and because so many people don't realize the impact

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or even know that they're part of this Medicaid population that could be impacted. So the work that you're doing is so important, and just even educating, getting the word out. So people on the call that are learning about this, if you can share with your neighbors and your community, it's so important that people know this is going to happen.

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And I just want to share too that

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You know, this, especially the Medicaid, these changes really impact all of us to some degree. If you're following along, these Medicaid changes could really impact our hospital systems and our community medical providers, and so this is something that

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Could impact all of us. Things like longer waiting times in emergency rooms because less people have access to services. So I want to make sure that, again, that if there are anyone that you know in your communities that could benefit from this information to please reach out to us, reach out to Lorena and Id

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To get that support and to make sure they know what they need to do to stay on their, on their benefits. So Lorena, thank you so much for your time, and I mean, not just today, but again, all the work that you've put into this and educating the community and helping folks make sure that they stay on these, like, life-saving benefits

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So thank you so much. And I think we're going to move into questions from the community now. So I believe my team, so Terry and Karina and Rashida might be able to help let me know what questions are

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And the chat.

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Okay, great. So we do have our first question and it says, with everything going on, what kind of support will you need going into the holidays for our community?

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Yeah, it's a great question. So again, we're seeing record numbers, so gearing up for that. One of the problems that we had last year during the holidays, it's just not enough space. So that's a continuing issue until we're able to move into our new home. We definitely need volunteers to come in and help during that time, as well as people who are willing to

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Donate food, canned goods, dried goods are best because we have more ability to store them than the freezer cooler items, and really would like to accept the dry goods. And then also, again, that dollar wasâ€¦ it can really stretch to three meals. One of the things that we keep running into every holiday is

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We asked the Great Chicago Food Repository for so much, you know, turkeys and hams and over time, because things have gotten more expensive, they're not able to give us as many as we need to serve everybody. And I will tell you that the community really looks forward to that. I know last year we talked a lot about

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You know, make sure that somebody can have a nice holiday, because it's such a hard time. So I would just encourage people to get involved with us, you know, either through donating, through donating your time, or some dry goods for us as well.

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Terrific. Okay, so we have another question. It says, with the new building, beyond having more space, how exactly will this new layout change for the client experience?

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It's a great question too, and I'm so excited. We don't have it in the presentation, but we have an amazing rendering of what the market will look like. It'll look like a grocery store. The space we're moving into most recently was a gym, but

prior to that had been a grocery store multiple times over

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In fact, many neighbors have been telling us about when it was a jewel and people parked on the rooftop, which if you have that photo, please let us know because we're still looking for a photo of that because we can't believe it. But the space will be so welcoming, it will feel you'll have a grocery cart. It'll feel like you're really shopping. So that dignity factor is really important to us

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So welcoming, so warm. The community kitchen, while we love our church kitchen and have made do, they have, like, an actual teaching kitchen for folks, and, you know, if you've been following along, we recently hired a new dietitian who is also a chef, who's really focused on culinary nutrition, so teaching people knife skills, teaching people how to

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The other day, he was showing me how he used the microwave to cook an eggplant to make it like roasted almost.

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I don't evenâ€¦ I don't know how he did it. It was amazing. But it looked like he had stuck it in the oven. So just more of those kind of tips and skills for the people that we serve. And just the warehouse space. So being able to store more food is going to be really, really helpful for us and the ability to move in and out of that space in a way that is good for accessibility.

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If you volunteered, you know that that window is real tricky to get food in and out of. If you're someone who's coming to shop the market, coming up and down the stairs is a challenge. We do have an elevator, it's just a little bit harder to get to. And not even having to, like, set up a pantry every time, but literally have that store

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Feeling open every time that you come. And one thing we started, which I'm kind of giving you a little heads up on because it'sâ€¦ we haven't talked about it too much yet.

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As we started an online market. So our online market. We're testing it out right now with some current folks at our community market, and that just started last week. So we had, I think, 15 people pick up orders

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The new space will allow us to expand that work and be able to serve more people through that market, and also possibly taking that food to other partners so that people can pick up where they're already receiving services versus

having to come to us every time.

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Thanks so much for that. I know we're all very excited about the new building. So the next question is just a little bit different. It says, with inflation and food costs, how are your program teams adapting to ensure that the quality and nutritional value of the food remains the same?

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It's a great question. You all have great questions.

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So we have a lot of ways that we measure that kind of the nutritious, the nutrition, I would say nutritiously dense, which is a lot of words, just making sure that the food we're giving out is really going to be satisfying and healthy to folks

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So we have a measurement that we use. It starts with this thing called supporting wellness at food pantries, which is a mouthful. But basically, it's like a stoplight, so kind of measuring food on, like, green, eat as much as you possibly can, it's great, you know, think about fresh veggies for that and fruits

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Yellow, you know, could be like a pasta, like it's okay, just don't eat a ton of it. And then red's like sparingly, right? So these are treat.

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90, we try to say around 92, 94% of the food that we offer people fall within those green and yellow categories, which is pretty impressive. And we've been able to maintain that even with the changes in cost of food. So we do things like rescue, so we do a lot of food rescue, so going and getting food that people, either the farmer's market aren't going to use and they are able to donate it to us

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We do purchase, we do have a separate budget just to purchase food, and the team is very

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What's the word I want to use? They are so good at finding the best deal, and then also working with larger vendors who can give us a better discount because we're able to buy in bulk. So all of those things are ways that we continue to make sure we're giving people the same amount of food that they are expecting.

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And we have some values around, you know, make sure that we always are providing frozen proteins to people, that we're able to provide whole grain bread. So certain things we're always going to make sure we have available to the folks that we serve. So, so far we've been able to make it work. You know, when we did our budget last year, we increased the amount of money we had for food

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Because we knew that we were going to be serving more people, and we knew the costs were going up.

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Yeah, thank you. We're just so lucky to have those partners grocery store partners. Okay, so this one is a little bit different. What are the most critical volunteer roles that you will need going into the holiday season?

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That's a great question, and I may not know all them off the top of my head, so Terry might have to help me a little. I will say we are definitely looking for drivers right now. So if you are somebody who, especially during the mornings, during the week, who could go and pick up a rescue. So that food I was talking about that, you know, either stores or

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Restaurants are giving to us for free. We need people to pick that up daily, so if you're able to take your car and pick that up, that would be excellent. We also have our home delivery program that needs drivers to be able to drop off the food directly to people's homes or to meet us at a senior building and be able to give that food to people. I would just tell you, as someone who's volunteered in those shifts, very rewarding work

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People are very happy to see you, and I think during the holidays will feel even better. And, you know, I know we're always looking for people at the market and then also here, when I say here, I'm at the Austin location right now. And so people to pick and pack for our home delivery program here as well

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Terry, if you wanted to add, I don't want to miss any other opportunities there.

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Okay.

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Actually, I think you covered it. I mean, we always have open shift. So yeah, just check out our website and there's an

easy way to see those shifts. Okay, great. There's still another question, and it is, how does SNAP enrollment work? So if a client comes to the community market

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Are they automatically screened to see if they get qualified?

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So Lorena and Lorena, you can hop back on for this question too. Lorena and Ida are on site for our distribution so that they can help people sign up. Lorena, do you want to talk a little bit about the process? I don't want to say anything incorrectly.

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Yeah, so every one of our clients, whether they're going through the community market or through the drive through, is asked during registration whether they currently receive SNAP or not, if they respond no to that, they're asked to follow up question, which is

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Would you like to be contacted by our benefit services coordinator? And so that would be me and Ida. We get that list back and then we'll contact the client to screen them over the phone at a time outside of distribution. But for anyone that is ready to be screened at that moment, they're always welcome to come up to us or come inside to

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the community market, and we are ready to screen any client on the spot. And we also oftentimes people don't have the documentation on hand that they need to apply, so we'll let them know that they seem to be eligible

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And what information that they need to bring with us to us next time so that we can help them with the application process. And we walk them through the application process from start to finish and remind them of their renewals coming up.

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Hope that

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Yeah, I would say too that, thank you, Lorena. I would say too that even just the application process itself through the system is called Abe, it's online, can be also complicated. And so working with someone like Lorena or Ida on that is really helpful for folks to make sure they're answering the questions correctly

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And that they have the proper documentation. But everyone is asked if they have SNAP or not

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Oh, that's great. There's another question for both of you too, and it is with regard to other organizations that you might work with. And I know Lorena could speak to that also.

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Yeah, Lorena, if you want to take that question because you've been out and about

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Yeah, so the benefits team, we do work with various organizations. We are actually on site helping with application assistance on

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One day of the month at a house in Austin, we also have a partnership with new moms and they have a subset organization called Bright endeavors, which is their work program for the moms that they help. And so we're on site at their location once per month to help with benefits assistance

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We also go to another food pantry called What About Us, and they don't have the capacity to have someone on their staff help people with applications. So they have us going during their distribution hours to help people enroll in SNAP

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So those are some of our major ones. We have also conducted trainings with Housing Forward

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Thrive Counseling Center, as well as a collaboration for early childhood, and just partnering with other organizations to let them know that we're able to do referrals for us to help them, their clients with SNAP.

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There's another question, and it is, how do you monitor eligibility over time?

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Lorena, well, I wonder if that's is that question, let me answer that question from the perspective of the food pantry and then Lorena, maybe you just answer specific to benefits.

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So for the food pantry, I'll just say this, we have certain rules we have to follow through USDA and GCFD in terms of making sure people qualify for our services. And one of the ways that they do that is they self-attest

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to their income. So we have income limits. Again, this is set by the USDA. It's not set by us. Basically, if someone qualifies for SNAP, they would qualify for a food pantry. Ifâ€¦ and, you know, if they make under a certain amount, they're going to qualify. I will say that if you are standing in line for a food pantry waiting to get food

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Going through the process of going to a food pantry, I'm going to assume that you need food. We asked for self attestation, and we don't ask for anything else. We're not looking at people's pay stubs, we're not getting involved in that way. Again, because we're here to serve people as needed.

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Lorena, do you want to share about benefits in case that that question is more related to that?

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Yeah, so eligibility varies depending on the program that the person is applying for, as well as how many people are in the household because then two households could have the same income, but if there's more people in one household, then that's measured differently. And so it really depends on the program

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But we do keep track of the yearly updates that they make to this income limits because, for example, the Illinois Department of Human Services does update their income limits every October, and so we'll look at that and we know to expect some people falling off their benefits around that time

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Because they might have been barely eligible the year before, and now they're no longer eligible. So we just kind of keep track of the updates, and if someoneâ€™ their income changes, or something about their household changes, we do ask them to come to us so that we can report that and see if they're still eligible for benefits.

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Right, and if they're going back every year or every six months, they're having to prove to Illinois Department of Human Services that they still qualify.

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That's great. And as a follow-up, there's a question around residency in order to be participating in pantry assistance. Can you talk about the service area?

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Yeah, so we have what is called a preferred service area. We kind of before, gosh, probably in 2024 this happened, USDA, who really regulates the work of our food pantry and other food pantries

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Previously, people could say, well, we serve these zip codes. So technically, Beyond Hunger, you know, before previously, we were like, these are our 13 zip codes we serve.

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As a way to kind of keep pantries from being overwhelmed, the USDA would say, and GCFD would say, well, you can say we don't serve people outside the zip code

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will give you a referral. We'll serve you one time because you're here, and we don't want you, you know, not to leave without food, but we're going to give you a referral to something closer to where you live. In 2024, the USDA got rid of that rule and actually made it a rule that we can't deny people service

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I'm not saying we would want to, but we can serve anybody and we do. So we're serving a lot of people, so we have a preferred area, which are those 13 zip codes, which is just historically who we've served. We know with our new space, we know with changing what's going on in the world and people needing food pantries that we're going to be seeing, and we are seeing folks from areas that are not part of those priority zip codes

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And that's totally fine. And that's what we're here for. So the zip code doesn't matter, you know, no one has to prove residency if you're unstably housed, you don't have to worry about that. We can serve everybody once a month, and so that's just the only kind of cadence is that we serve people full allotment of food once a month

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To make sure that we have enough to give everybody. But we don't turn anyone away now, and that is a change, like I said, to USDA, and it's not a bad change. It's actually good, and we also, the other thing I'll say, too, is that sometimes we know people need more food than what we're providing

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Especially if they've lost their SNAP benefits. So we'll tell them about other pantries too, because we want people to use as many pantries or food access sites as they need to make sure that they have the food that they need to feed their families. So that's not something we care about. We will happily share more information so people can find other pantries if they need them as well.

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Okay, great. And just one last question here is a little bit more about the change in those work requirements, and is volunteering or volunteering at Beyond Hunger an option?

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Yes, Lorena, if I don't say, if you want to add anything, let me know. Yes, and we have folks that are doing that work with us, which is I'm really happy that we're able, I mean, it's unfortunate that we have to do that, but I'm really happy we're able to help folks continue to stand their benefits. It's 80 hours a month

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That people have to volunteer. And I will say that most nonprofits, they can't sustain somebody 80 hours a month, but food pantries can. We have plenty of shifts every week. And so there are some folks doing that with us. And there's tons of reasons you can probably guess as to why it is that those people cannot work and need to volunteer instead.

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And so we're able to offer that. That is happening. Lorena, is there anything else you want to add about the work volunteer requirement

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No, you're right, we do help some people with their hours here. And then Ida and I are always on site to be able to report those hours. So our volunteer coordinator, Sophie will sign off on the hours that they complete and then we'll scan that document and submit it to the persons

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case profile on their ABA account

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All right, Terry, I think, is that all the questions?

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I think that that's all that we have, unless there are any last-minute questions.

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What amazing questions, though.

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Great questions, everybody.

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Well, now that you're all fired up and it is the last day of Hunger Action Month, so this is a month we encourage people to really make sure that they understand what's happening in food insecurity work and at our government levels. But we have a couple calls to action for you. And this one's really important. Make sure you sign up to vote

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You know, the midterms are coming up, we have local elections, we have other things happening on November 6th, so make sure that you're registered to vote and that you have a plan to be able to vote that day. Also, you can sign up for our Action Alert newsletter, which a lot of the information that Lorena shared today will be there

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You can stay on top of all these all these bits of news and things are changing constantly, so you'll be really up to date to be able to help your neighbors

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And we'll also let you know, too, in that action alert, what's going on with, like, any House or Senate bills that also seems to be moving so quickly, too, so it's really good to stay on top of that. And then, again, share our information with your circle. So, from social media, from the action alerts, from

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The different things that we post on our website, please keep sharing those things out to the community as well.

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And that's our call to action. So I just, as we're wrapping up, I just want to thank everyone again for taking some time out of your day to join us to hear

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I wouldn't say it's positive news, but to stay on top of this, and again, I just want to thank this community. I can't say this

enough for just being so supportive, and caring so much about everyone here, as well as the people we serve. So thank you so much for being here, and I hope to continue this. Can't wait for our next one

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Hopefully we have some more news about the building for you at that time, too.