

Resources for Low-income Families

Chicago Uptown Ministry is a Chicago Illinois charity that offers gifts, toys, winter coats and food to the low income and poor. The program relies exclusively on donations from the community. Nothing that you contribute will go towards administrative expenses. Some of what may be distributed is as follows.

Families will get free bags of groceries, including hams, turkeys, canned fruits and vegetables, and more. Games, toys, and other gifts may be passed out by the ministry, based on donation levels. A wish list of needed items is also available. The address is 4720 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago, Illinois 60640. To access the program, call (773) 271-3760 or go in person.

Cathedral Shelter of Chicago provides holiday food baskets, mostly to the low income or very poor. Registration for the season opens every May. The address is 1668 W Ogden Ave, and the non-profits number is (312) 997-2222.

Englewood Corps and Red Shield Center of the Salvation Army supports senior citizens. This may include meals and other assistance at Thanksgiving or Christmas. The center is based at 945 W 69th St., and is for more local families. Other social services may be provided for low income elderly residents in Chicago. The primary phone number is (773) 358-3260.

The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division

5040 N. Pulaski Rd

Chicago, IL 60630

773-725-1100

For Emergency Holiday Assistance: 773-205-3520 or 773-205-3574 (Holiday Tree Program)

St. Vincent DePaul Society

651 W. Lake Street

Chicago, IL 60661

312-655-7183

Visit the following website to find your nearest location: <http://www.svdpusa.org/AssistanceServices.aspx>

Food Assistance

Direct 2 Food (Select "Resources" tab for health care, finances, housing, and more):

<http://www.direct2food.org/>

Greater Chicago Food Depository:

Call 773-247-3663 to find listing of food pantries in your area or visit www.chicagosfoodbank.org

Central Illinois Foodbank: Warehouse distribution center that provides food to smaller pantries.

1937 East Cook

Springfield, Illinois 62703

T 217 522.4022

<https://www.centralilfoodbank.org/gethelp.aspx>

Eastern Illinois Food bank: Work with agencies and pantries to distribute food.

2405 N Shore Dr
Urbana, IL 61802
(217) 328-3663

<http://eifoodbank.org/find-help/>

Warehouse hours are 7:30 am – 3:30 pm Monday – Thursday and 7:30 am – 12 pm on Friday.
Closed on weekends.

Will & Grundy Counties, foodbanks (pdf):

<http://solvehungertoday.org/GetHelp/~media/ILStCharles112/Images/GetHelp/Will%20and%20Grundy%20Agencies.ashx>

Feeding Illinois, state wide food bank information:

<http://feedingillinois.org/member-food-banks>

Additional Food Assistance Resources

If you are in need of additional assistance, please visit the links below:

**DHS Help Line
1-800-843-6154**

- [SNAP \(formerly the Food Stamps Program\), Illinois Department of Human Services](#)
- [Women, Infant and Children \(WIC\) Program, Illinois Department of Human Services](#)
- [Free and Reduced School Lunch Program, Illinois State Board of Education](#)

Catholic Charities

Emergency Assistance Department 721 N. LaSalle Chicago, IL 60654 Intake: (312) 655-7500

Emergency food & clothing also available at the following Catholic Charities Social Services locations:

- **St. Sabina Catholic Charities Social Services** 1120 W. 79th Street, Chicago (773) 846-3018
- **Marillac Social Center** 212 S. Francisco, Chicago IL 60612 (773) 584-3244

Also provides food pantry services at six regional locations:

North/Northwest Regional Office

1717 Rand Road
Des Plaines, IL
(847) 376-2100

West Regional Office

1400 S. Austin
Cicero, IL 60804
(708) 222-1491

St. Blase

7438 W. 61st Street
Summit, IL 60501
(708) 563-2407

South Regional Office

16100 Seton Drive
South Holland, IL 60473
(708) 333-8379

Southwest Regional Services

7000 W. 111th Street, Suite 101
Worth, IL 60482
(708) 430-0428

Casa Catalina Basic Human Needs

Center 4537 S. Ashland Ave
Chicago, IL 60609-3250
(773) 376-9425

Department of Central Information and Referral

Provides a central telephone entry point for persons seeking assistance from Catholic Charities: homeless prevention funds, emergency assistance funds, benefits screenings, community casework, counseling, addiction counseling, family shelter and housing programs.

Main Headquarters

651 W. Lake Street
Chicago, IL, 60661
Intake: (312) 655-7700

South Regional Office

16100 Seton Drive
South Holland, IL 60473
(708) 333-8379

North/Northwest Regional Office

1717 Rand Road
Des Plaines, IL
(847) 376-2100

Southwest Regional Services

7000 W. 111th Street, Suite 101
Worth, IL 60482
(708) 430-0428

West Regional Office

1400 S. Austin
Cicero, IL 60804
(708) 222-1491

Lake County Emergency Assistance

671 S. Lewis
Waukegan, IL 60085
Intake: (847) 782-4100

Help For North Shore Gas Customers Experiencing Hardship

The Heartship Program, administered by Catholic Charities Lake County Services, has funds available to help people whose North Shore Gas has been disconnected. This only applies to North Shore Gas customers and not NICOR customers. Applicants must meet income requirements and hardship criteria to qualify for assistance. Applicants can call 847-782-4100 (Monday through Friday) to determine if they qualify and to schedule an appointment.

Locations of government run Community Service Centers in Chicago

The centers and programs noted below offer needy families and individuals a large number of assistance programs. Get help with paying rent, access free food, and expenses such as heating and utility bills. People can also access job programs and placement services.

South Chicago

8759 S. Commercial Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60617
Phone number - 312-747-0500

King Center

Address of center - 4314 S. Cottage Grove
Chicago, IL 60653
Dial 312-747-2300 for information.

Englewood Center

Address - 845 W. 69th Street
Chicago, IL 60621
312-747-0200

North Area

4740 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60640
Dial - 312-744-2580

Garfield Center

10 S. Kedzie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60612
Number - 312-746-5400

Helpful website

www.needhelppayingbills.com Information, Inspiration & Resources for today's challenging economy.

Direct 2 Food (Select "Resources" tab for health care, finances, housing, and more):

<http://www.direct2food.org/>

International Organizations

Toys for Tots

The Marine Corps runs this great organization that provides toys to kids whose families may not be able to afford them otherwise. You can sign up for help from this organization if you meet the restrictions set for in the program. You've probably seen all the donation centers as December approaches. If you are in need of help, you may be able to get it from this organization.

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Family Giving Tree

There is a special Holiday Wish section of this group. While most donations are done in California, they are expanding beyond California. While the organization provides help all year, the holiday section is specifically designed for holiday wishes. They started out giving backpacks in 1990, but have expanded their services to include the holiday wish program. You can contact the Family Giving Tree to get help.

Trees for Troops

This is a part of the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and provides real trees to families with members in the military. Based out of Missouri, the foundation provides National assistance to those in need. It's a great organization that helps out during the holidays. Every family deserves a tree! This year they are teaming with FedEx to deliver the trees all over the nation. You can contact Christmas SPIRIT for help.

The National Holiday project

The National Holiday Project is an organization that aims to brighten the lives of the needy through local chapters. Sign up for help with the charity and see what kind of assistance they offer in your area.

Operation Santa Claus

While you will not receive gifts or money from this group, your child can get a letter from Santa. This could easily brighten the eyes of any child that may not get much for Christmas.

-----ILLINOIS-----

Feeding Illinois (formerly Illinois Food Bank Association)-

http://feedingillinois.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=75

Naperville Township's Adopt-A-Family Program-

<http://www.napervilletownship.com/sd/naperville/content/Detail.aspx?ID=1&CID=36ea6aef-68be-44f2-bb48-aac8c8801647>

Salt & Light Two Trees Thrift Store- <http://www.saltandlightministry.org/#!/two-trees-week-of-christmas/cmui>

Walter & Connie Payton Foundation- <http://www.payton34.com/#!/holiday-giving/c15v9>

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The Food Bank of Northern Indiana- is a great place to look for help - <http://feedindiana.org/>

The Government of Indiana-temporary assistance for needy families (TANF)<http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2684.htm>

Light House Mission Ministries Terre Haute- http://thlhm.org/programs_services.aspx