Feeding Champaign County
Addressing Food Access and Security

MARCH 2026

Future HCC Meetings and Events

Future Membership Gatherings
Wednesday, April 1st, 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm. Martens Center, 1515 N. Market St., Champaign
Wednesday, May 6th, 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm. Martens Center, 1515 N. Market St., Champaign

Next Board Meetings
Wednesday, March 25th at 8:30am - 10:00am. OSF Medical Center, 1400 W Park St. Conference Room C (right inside front entrance to the left)
Wednesday, April 29th at 8:30am - 10:00am. CFECI, 307 W. University Avenue, Champaign
Zoom Access for Board Meetings is HERE.

Coming Events and Opportunities with Participating Organizations

If an event has a flyer, you will find an icon 💼 next to the announcement. The icon has a link that will take you to the specific flyer or announcement.

HACC 2nd Annual Prom Pop-Up Shop. It's that time again! HACC is collecting new or gently used formal wear and accessories for there Annual Prom Pop-Up Shop! Donations may be dropped off at the Housing Authority of Champaign County until March 31, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. All sizes are welcome! More information is HERE.

NEW - CLU-W Hygiene Pantry of Champaign County New pantry to offer free hygiene products to individuals in need. Sponsored by the East Central Illinois Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the CLU-W Hygiene Pantry of Champaign County is located in the Brookens Administrative Center in Urbana. There are no income limits or other eligibility requirements. Hours will be 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Monetary donations can be sent to P.O. Box 131 Savoy, IL 61874. Those wishing to donate products can come to the pantry when it is open OR **Food Summit participants** can bring new hygiene product donations or monetary contribution to Summit where the Pantry will have a resource table. Your support will help ensure that individuals and families in Champaign County have access to the everyday essentials they need for health, dignity, and well-being. Learn more HERE. 💼

2026 Feeding Champaign County Food Summit
March 26, 2026
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
I-Hotel and Conference Center
1900 South First Street, Champaign

Program Highlights

- Welcome Speaker: Rev. Leah Roberts-Mosser, pastor at Community United Church of Christ in Urbana
- Keynote Speaker: Julie Pryde, *Cultivating Community: Growing Solutions from the Ground Up*
- Community Based Workshops
    - Faithful Food Sovereignty

    - Activating Farmers Markets as Third Space Infrastructure
    - Accessible Urban Foraging
    - Addressing Food Security with Home and Community Gardens
    - Strategies for School Food Security Collaborations
    - Local Grocery Stores Addressing Root Causes of Food Insecurity
    - Moving from Food Security to Nutrition Security in Early Care and Education Settings
    - Free Market Initiative Models, Impacts, and What's Next
    - Program Evaluation Techniques to Build Stronger Programs
    - Sparking Ideas for Strengthening Local Food Security
- Offers and Needs Market Matching Community Needs and Resources
- Collective Impact Station "*Create a Vibrant Food System*"
- Resource Fair with Demonstrations from 15 Champaign County Organizations
- Poster Session Highlighting Research happening at the University of Illinois
- Art Show by K-2 Students *"Draw a favorite memory of eating food with family and friends"*
- Post Summit Happy Hour at Houlihan's with Special Guest

On site registration opens at 8:00 am, light breakfast and beverages will be available.

Our Partners and Sponsors include: City of Champaign, City of Urbana, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, Common Ground Food Co-op, Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office, CU City Farms, Down at the Farm, DREAAM, Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Faith in Place, OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center, Sola Gratia Farms, University of Illinois Extension, University of Illinois Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute, University of Illinois Office of Public Engagement, The Land Connection, and the United Way of Champaign County.

Food & Nutrition Security News from Around the Nation

Releasing agriculture from the food security mandate The state of food security is achieved if no one has to worry whether or how they can acquire—typically purchase—healthy and nutritious meals. In theory, food security could be addressed from two sides: increasing households' purchasing power or lowering food prices. However, in practice, food insecurity is a by-product of prevailing political and economic systems. Releasing agriculture from the expectation of delivering ever-cheaper food is not abandoning food security. It is the only way to ensure food security in the long run. 💼

Global measures consistently underestimate food insecurity One in five who suffer from hunger may go uncounted. A new study from the University of Illinois and collaborators, published in *Nature Food*, finds the opposite is the case: global food insecurity analyses systematically underestimate hunger.

Affordability Makes It Difficult to Buy Healthy Food In a survey of 2,332 older adults conducted by NCOA, 71% of respondents said affordability was the main obstacle to choosing and purchasing healthy foods. Nearly half of respondents said it was hard for their household to regularly get and eat healthy foods in the past 12 months. Learn more HERE.

Understanding the foodscape: Context for growing a discussion on feeding the people With roots in agriculture before the nation's founding, America s food system branches into parts down to the seed. The systems that make up the country's nutritional health are so interconnected that a guide to understanding the national, state, and local factors is needed to effectively view the big picture in a holistic way. Julia Freedgood provides just that in her book Planning Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems. An expert in food systems planning and agriculture advocate, Freedgood is an advisor at American Farmland Trust who focuses on planning and policy to increase food security and combat climate change with a farmers first approach. In her book, she provides a rich assessment, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, of the need to plan for a more resilient food system through land management, supply chains, policy, and community. Read the full review HERE.

Newsletter Publication Schedule: We aspire to publish this newsletter on the 3rd Wednesday of every

month. Submissions for inclusion must be received by the 2nd Wednesday. Send submissions to HealthyChampaignCounty2016@gmail.com.

This information has been provided by **Healthy Champaign County** (HCC), a coalition of organizations and community members working to ensure opportunities for active living and accessible, nutritional food for all our neighbors in Champaign County.

Learn more about Health Champaign County

If you wish to be added or removed from this mailing list, send a message to HealthyChampaignCounty2016@gmail.com.