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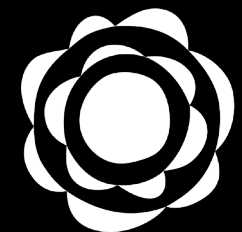
NOVEMBER 6, 2025

# Food Security for Life:

A collaboration between Greater Chicago Food Depository and City Colleges of Chicago, a key component of City Colleges' Thrive Strategy

CCC Board Presentation  
November 2025

**CITY COLLEGES<sup>®</sup>**  
OF CHICAGO



**GREATER  
CHICAGO**  
– FOOD –  
DEPOSITORY<sup>®</sup>

# Our Wellness and Basic Needs Interventions are Guided by the Strategic Plan

We are the city's most accessible higher education engine of socioeconomic mobility and racial equity – empowering all Chicagoans to take part in building a stronger and more just city.

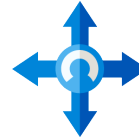
Our work is guided by a five-year strategic framework with equity at its center



Create an **exceptional student experience**



Become a “student-ready” **equitable institution**



Develop and strengthen pathways that are **responsive** to the economic needs of the City



Build a **culture of excellence**

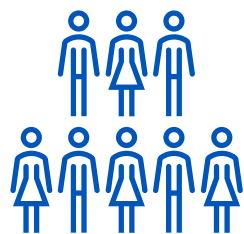


Create a **collaborative and connected** ecosystem



Monitor and ensure financial sustainability and the overall **health** of our institution

# CCC Basic Needs Compared to National Averages



## Basic Needs Insecurity:

**City Colleges:**

**69%**

reported any BNI

**National Average:**

**61%**



## Housing Insecurity:

**City Colleges:**

**59%**

**National Average:**

**51%**



## Food Insecurity:

**City Colleges:**

**50%**

**National Average:**

**43%**



## Homelessness:

**City Colleges:**

**16%**

**National Average:**

**15%**

An ambitious plan to meet students' basic needs as a core part of their CCC experience, with the belief that once these obstacles are removed, our students will thrive personally and academically, and upon graduation will hold degrees that lead to financial security.



This strategy is in line with CCC's core values and goals including:

- CCC Vision
- 55 for All Goal
- Strategic Plan

# Thrive Strategy Overview

CCC's Thrive Strategy supports students' basic needs through:

- **Infrastructure** – Additional staff, technology, and community partners.
- **Programming** – Maintaining existing strategies while planning, piloting, and scaling new interventions.
- **Evaluation** – Internal and external evaluation of initiatives to ensure programs are having desired impact on BNI and academic success.
- **Fundraising** – Thanks to the CCC Foundation, ~\$4M has already been raised to support Thrive initiatives.

## 5 Key Interventions for Comprehensive Support During the CCC Journey



Mental Health



Technology



Food



Housing

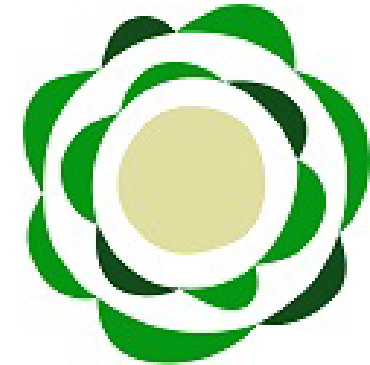


Financial Assistance

# Our **Shared Vision** CCC & GCFD

Every student at City Colleges of Chicago has sufficient food for them and their family, and a path to a thriving wage career.

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DEPOSITORY.**

# Food Security For Life

**Goal:** No student, while at CCC, will experience hunger.

**Food Pilots:** Focus on increasing access to food for students and families at home and on campus.

**Pilot Outcomes:** Early findings indicate successful impacts on academics and food security.



## Student Response:

*"Since the semester has rolled around, not only am I coming to school to eat because it's hard at home, but I'm also building more relationships on campus. So, I find myself being here a lot more than I used to be and I'm really happy."*

*"At home, food has been scarce because we're having to house my sister and her kids. Now I'm able to eat at school while using my own personal money to provide for my family, which is really, really helpful."*

# Food Depository & CCC Partnership: Summary of Plans

*Food for today, food for tomorrow, food for the future.*

## On-Campus

Upgraded “markets” with optimized hours, service and experience

Ready-to-eat grab and go foods that get students through the day

Ready-to-heat meals for students to enjoy on campus or take home

## Off-Campus

Connect eligible students to the safety net

Joint advocacy for public policy and programs that support students

Ensure food access for student families

## Ramp to a Thriving Wage

Paid apprenticeship opportunities at the Food Depository, offered exclusively for City College students

Connecting City College students to valuable paid apprenticeships at external employment partners

Living wage during apprenticeships plus additional supports



# Launch of Food Security For Life Partnership with GCFD

On September 30, CCC and GCFD hosted a launch event announcing our partnership to end hunger among CCC students and families.



*"I'm proud to launch the Food Security for Life program, an effort that harnesses the power of the entire community and gives our students and their families access to the food they need to thrive."*

*-Governor JB Pritzker*

*"Research consistently tells us that food-insecure students are more likely to miss class, perform poorly, or drop out altogether. By ensuring access to nutritious food, City Colleges is making an essential investment in student retention, academic achievement, and long-term community health."*

*-Mayor Brandon Johnson*

*"Food Security for Life is about supporting the whole student. By removing barriers like this, we are helping our students stay enrolled and focused on their education. This program will build brighter futures for our students, their families and for all of Chicago."*

*-Chancellor Juan Salgado*

# CCC Three-Year Roll Out Plan

## New “Dynamic Markets,” offering take-home family meals will replace existing pantries:

- FY26 – First market opens at Kennedy-King
- FY27 – Four additional markets open throughout the year
- FY28 – Remaining two markets open

## New “Ready to Heat Meals” will replace existing hot meal pilot program:

- FY26 – Meals replace hot meal program at existing 3 pilot colleges; organized and distributed by new pantry staff and student workers
- FY27 – Ready to Heat Meals introduced at one additional college
- FY28 – Ready to Heat Meals introduced at three additional colleges

	# Colleges with Offering							# Colleges with Offering							# Colleges with Offering						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Partnership Offerings	YEAR 1							YEAR 2							YEAR 3						
Pantry	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•							
Dynamic Market	•							•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ready to Heat Meals	•	•	•					•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Staff and Student Workers	•	•	•					•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Take Home Family Meals	•							•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grab N Go Snacks	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
GCFD Public Benefit Enrollment Support	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

# KKC Market Renovation – Opening January







Thank you!  
We appreciate your time.