

**Emergency Food System Working Group
Work Plan
DRAFT October 21, 2015**

Emergency Food System Working Group Charge: The Emergency Food System Working Group will explore and support public and private policies and practices that advance food security, the access of all people at all times to the nutritious food needed for an active and healthy life.

Goals: Combining immediate hunger relief interventions with long-term actions for sustainability in Illinois, the EFS Working Group seeks to increase the supply of food to Illinois hunger-relief providers.

Work Plan for Emergency Food System Working Group

Goal: Launch in FY17 an agricultural surplus “trial run” program focused on a few regions with large, edible, specialty crops.		
OBJECTIVES TO SUPPORT AND CRAFT AGRICULTURAL SURPLUS CAPTURE PROGRAM	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
A. Raise awareness and enhance partnerships necessary to procure surplus crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shape connections for leadership across state, e.g., hunger-relief organizations; farm organizations; state/county/federal government agencies, departments, and commissions; universities, colleges, and research organizations; food-focused nonprofits; food-focused private sector organizations; experts in the food system, nutrition, and agriculture. 	2015 and ongoing
B. Build diversified revenue sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft proposals to fund development of project (i.e., funding from philanthropic to public sources) 	2015 and ongoing
C. Evaluate strategic approaches and best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather data on Illinois agriculture for effective implementation of a trial run, e.g., crop prices, market trends, acres planted/crop/county Identify unharvested land sources to establish buying contracts with farmers, farm groups, co-ops, trade associations, and processing companies Examine incentive options for growers to donate surplus crops Investigate systems for currently unharvested food, e.g., management, purchasing, harvesting, preserving the cold-chain, distribution, food bank capacity 	2015 and ongoing

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Goal: Explore the feasibility of conducting a pilot program to increase the protein donations to hunger relief organizations via the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger program.		
OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
A. Distinguish the possibilities for leveraging the Sportsmen Against Hunger program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with IDNR staff to gather information on the Sportsmen Against Hunger program Determine factors necessary to expand the program 	9/2015 and ongoing
B. Identify strategies to increase donations to the Sportsmen Against Hunger program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search for meat processors to participate in the program Raise awareness among hunters about the program Find funding sources to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support a pilot project – in IDNR region 1 with a food bank – to test ways of increasing donations to the Sportsmen Against Hunger program ✓ Expand the donation program to counties currently ineligible for the IDNR Sportsmen Against Hunger program 	2015 and ongoing
Goal: Explore the feasibility of addressing other food supply topics that influence the availability, access, utilization, and stability components of food security.		
OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
A. Food waste reduction from food manufacturers and distributors, retail, and food services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit champion Identify the strengths, challenges, opportunities for leveraging this topic 	6/2016
B. Collaborative purchasing opportunities to expand supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top Box leads the investigation to identify and assess the feasibility of cooperative purchasing prospects 	