



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### STATE COMMISSIONS ON POVERTY AND HUNGER VISIT GLENVIEW FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioners seek input from community for statewide action plans;  
suburbs now home to 50 percent of Chicago area's low-income residents

**Winnetka, IL, October 28, 2015** – The Illinois Commission on the Elimination of Poverty and the Illinois Commission to End Hunger will be visiting Glenview on October 29, 2015, as part of a statewide listening tour. Commissioners will have the opportunity to hear from the public about how hunger and poverty are affecting individuals and families in the northern suburbs. The Commissions are developing annual action plans to reduce hunger and poverty in Illinois.

“Too many people in the suburbs face hunger and poverty,” said Janice Glenn, Director of Diversity and Recruitment at the Office of Governor Bruce Rauner, and Co-Chair of the Commission on the Elimination of Poverty and the Commission to End Hunger. “We look forward to receiving testimony on policy solutions that will ensure the well-being of citizens in the suburbs and across the state.”

Suburban poverty has grown during the past three decades. In 2013, Heartland Alliance’s Social IMPACT Research Center released data showing that the suburbs are now home to 50 percent of the Chicago area’s low-income residents, an increase of 16 percent since 1990. Food insecurity also is growing in the suburbs, according to data from the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap Study. Several municipalities in the suburbs have food insecurity rates of more than 30 percent, well above the statewide figure of 14 percent. In Glenview, 8 percent of the population is food insecure.

“The number of people we serve has grown by more than 70 percent since the 2008 recession,” said Kate Maehr, Executive Director & CEO of Greater Chicago Food Depository, and Co-Chair of the Illinois Commission to End Hunger. “We have opportunities in Cook County and across the state to identify unmet needs and develop policies and programs that will ensure no one goes hungry.”

Commissioners, elected officials and other stakeholders will come together for the hearing at 6:30 p.m. **on Thursday, October 29, at Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road.** Members of the public are invited to testify. Attendees will be asked to register to speak on-site and be allowed to provide oral testimony of three minutes in length. The hearing in Glenview is the final of three visits the Commissions are making statewide. The Commissions visited Pembroke Township, in Kankakee County, on Oct. 14, and Peoria on Oct. 20.

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### **About The Commission on the Elimination of Poverty and the Commission to End Hunger**

The Commission on the Elimination of Poverty and the Commission to End Hunger are independent bodies created by statute that are charged with developing and monitoring state plans to cut poverty and hunger.

For more information about the Commission on the Elimination of Poverty, please visit [poverty.illinois.gov](http://poverty.illinois.gov) and for more information about the Commission to End Hunger, please visit [endhunger.illinois.gov](http://endhunger.illinois.gov).

### **About Open Communities**

Open Communities, formerly Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs, is a nonprofit organization that advocates for fair and affordable housing in 16 northern suburbs of Chicago. We educate, advocate and organize to promote just and inclusive communities in north suburban Chicago. For more information about Open Communities, please visit [www.open-communities.org](http://www.open-communities.org).