



WU00737

Anna Albi
Councilmember

February 8, 2026

MOTION

We MOVE that City Council allocate funds from the Operating Contingencies Budget for the 'FY25 to:

- \$125,000 to Freestore Foodbank to support emergency food access programs for Cincinnati households
- \$125,000 to St. Vincent de Paul to support emergency food access programs and homelessness prevention assistance for Cincinnati residents at risk of displacement
- \$125,000 to Access to Counsel rental assistance to strengthen legal representation, outreach and housing stabilization services for Cincinnati tenants facing eviction

These funds will strengthen our city's efforts to reduce food insecurity and housing instability.

STATEMENT

This investment is critical because too many Cincinnati families are experiencing rising food costs, unstable housing, and the threat of eviction. Our frontline partners are seeing increased demand. At St. Vincent. De Paul, surges within homelessness prevention applications and food assistance are at a record high. In a single week, SVDP's Neyer Outreach Center alone received more than \$377,900 in qualified, unduplicated requests, which was only a fraction of the need seen across the organization's community-wide footprint. Additionally, it is now the norm for the SVDP pantry to go through a typical week's worth of food supply in just four days.

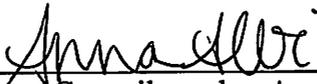
The Freestore Foodbank has also seen an unprecedented increase in demand. Their two markets, Bea Taylor Market on the West side and Liberty Street Market in OTR, have seen a 41% increase in new shoppers. That alone totals over 1,350 new families accessing the charitable food system. Additionally, their partners are seeing about a 30% increase in families at their locations.

On December 6, 2023, City Council voted to enact an ordinance that created the Access to Counsel Pilot Program, which provides rent assistance and legal counsel to families facing eviction. As a result of the success of the first two years of the program, strategic services including landlord/tenant mediation and an increase in the number of days that a same-day eviction lawyer will be available for tenants in eviction court. At its current rate of approximately \$27,000 in assistance distributed each week, the program is on track to exhaust all available funds by August if additional resources are not allocated.

By providing additional support for emergency food access, rental assistance, and Access to Counsel we are giving families the support they need to stay fed, stay housed and stay connected

Proposed

to their community. These funds help stabilize households today while reducing long-term economic and social strain across our city.



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Budget