



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Food Bank network stands strong during COVID-19 crisis Changes being made to emergency food distribution schedule

**Duquesne, PA (March, 26, 2020)** – Now entering the third week of its response to the COVID-19 crisis, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (the Food Bank) continues to operate as an essential business. The organization is here to feed our neighbors in need, now more than ever. The longer this uncertain time in our nation's history continues, the greater the demand for food assistance will be. The Food Bank provides multiple opportunities for assistance with food. These include:

- **SNAP (food stamps)** helps individuals and families make the ends meet by providing money to purchase groceries. The Food Bank provides SNAP application assistance. Individuals seeking assistance with SNAP applications can complete the Referral Form on the Food Bank's website, call 1-833-822-SNAP (7627) or text SNAPPA to 555-888.
- **The Food Bank's network of 365 agencies, partners and programs** provide grocery items to individuals and families earning an income that is 150 percent of the federal poverty level, or are **experiencing an emergency such as a job loss**. Using the individuals zipcode the Food Bank's digital locator tool helps individuals find pantry near them.
- **Children can get free meals fom schools and other community programs.** Many schools are giving grab and go meals to children who qualify for free and reduced price school meals. A map and list of opportunities is available on the Food Bank's website.

A pantry locator tool; information on applying for SNAP; a comprehensive list and map of what schools and community organizations are doing to feed children while schools are closed; and a schedule of upcoming distributions are available on the Food Bank's website at [pittsburghfoodbank.org/covid19](http://pittsburghfoodbank.org/covid19).

### DIRECT DISTRIBUTION CHANGES:

Unfortunately, due to logistics and the observation of Federal, State and Local COVID-19 mitigation regulations that limit crowd sizes and recommend social distancing, it is not possible to safely distribute food at the Food Bank's currently scheduled direct distribution program locations.

The organization has made the difficult decision to cancel all currently scheduled Produce to People, FoodShare and Oakland Free Food Spot distributions until further notice. However, the Food Bank is finalizing a safe, efficient emergency drive-up food distribution model with a goal of launching on Monday, March 30. Individuals and families needing food assistance

Food Bank managed direct distributions that are now **cancelled** include:

Saturday, March 28	10 a.m. - noon	<b>Produce to People Beaver Falls</b> Beaver Falls Middle School
Saturday, March 28	10 a.m. - noon	<b>Produce to People South Side</b> South Side Market House
Monday, March 30	9 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	<b>Food Share at the Food Bank</b>
Wednesday, April 1	10 a.m. - noon	<b>Produce to People Cambria - Johnstown</b> Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center
Thursday, April 2	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.	<b>Produce to People Sheraden</b> Pittsburgh Langley K-8
Saturday, April 4	10 a.m. - noon	<b>Produce to People Braddock</b> Braddock Volunteer Fire Dept
Saturday, April 4	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Produce to People New Castle</b> St. Vitus School
Monday, April 6	9 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	<b>Food Share at the Food Bank</b>
Tuesday, April 7	3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>Oakland Free Food Spot</b> Tent in Schenley Plaza

Despite facing challenges of running direct distribution programs, the Food Bank and its network stand strong and ready to serve the community.

In these uncertain times, the Food Bank is committed to continuing our nearly 40-year mission of feeding people in need and mobilizing the community to eliminate hunger. The organization is continuously monitoring this ever-changing situation and evaluating the best way to provide assistance to our neighbors in need of food assistance.

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