



Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

Agency Newsletter March 2017

EFAP Update

Our 2017 EFAP inventory remains high and the Food Bank is offering up to 30 EFAP items on a regular basis to our partner agencies. For food safety reasons, please distribute all items you receive to your clients, i.e. if you receive 40 items then your clients should receive 40 items. Also, when possible please distribute more than one commodity to each household i.e. three bottles of juice versus one bottle.

In addition to offering EFAP through our product list, for a limited time, we are offering a free EFAP delivery program named EFAP Just in Time Delivery. We will deliver EFAP commodities to your agency right before your food distribution. The program is meant to help you distribute additional EFAP commodities to your clients without having to store the product. If you are interested in this program, please contact Betty Jimenez at ejimenez@lafoodbank.org or (323) 234-3030 extension 133 or Annabel Carreon at acarreon@lafoodbank.org or (323) 234-3030 extension 122.

If you distribute EFAP commodities and your agency is religious in nature, please make sure you read and understand the EFAP Religious Organizations Policy Update that was emailed (also sent via regular U.S. mail) to you on March 13, 2017. Contact your Agency Relations Coordinator ASAP with any questions or concerns.

Food Orders

If your agency is not ordering your food online, now is the perfect time to start. Our Agency Express Online Order system is free and easy to use. No more waiting on the telephone for your order to be taken. Please contact LaRonda Simes for details Lsimes@lafoodbank.org.

If you still prefer to order via telephone, please have your order ready before calling our Inventory Control department. This will help us serve you in a timely manner. It is currently taking an average of 15 minutes to take each agency's order via telephone. Please download the product list before calling. Our daily product list is available at <https://www.lafoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/Shopping-List.htm> Please also note, going forward all agencies need to call in their order between 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Orders will not be accepted after 12:00 PM.

Reminder: The Food Bank has moved to a 48 hour ordering cycle. This means if you call in or place your order online with less than 48 hours from your scheduled pick up or delivery appointment, your order may not be ready!

Keep in mind that food orders are larger due to increased food supplies and it is taking longer to load each order. Please expect to be at the Food Bank from 1 to 1.5 hours for your food pick up.

Food Donation Trends

We are receiving new food donors on a regular basis. Food manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and restaurants are more interested than ever in donating their surplus and short coded food items.

Due to the increased interest, our Extra Helpings program is growing. If you distribute food at least once per week and are interested in the program please contact Sonia Rodriguez at sorodriguez@lafoodbank.org for more information.

Disaster Preparedness

The Food Bank is focusing on disaster preparedness more intensively this year with the help of our AmeriCorps volunteer Jesse Villalpando. The Food Bank is also involved with Emergency Network (ENLA), which serves as the Los Angeles County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters). ENLA is a coalition of nonprofit organizations, along with government and private-sector partners, with some disaster function. ENLA serves as the forum where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle—preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation — to help disaster survivors and their communities. ENLA fosters more effective service through the four C's—communication, coordination, cooperation and collaboration — by providing convening mechanisms and outreach for all people and organizations involved in disasters. If your organization would like to participate in increasing the disaster resilience of Los Angeles County, getting your organization prepared and networked to recover faster, and learning from each other and other organizations dealing with disaster, you should register for ENLA's upcoming Membership meeting being held at the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management on Wednesday, April 5 at 1pm. To register, go to ENLA's website at <http://enla.org/events/>

All Agencies Conference on Thursday, May 11th at Quiet Cannon

Mark your calendars for the Food Bank's annual All Agencies Conference which will be held on Thursday, May 11th at Quiet Cannon in Montebello. Registration materials will be sent out shortly.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL



Fighting Hunger. Giving Hope.

You can find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @LAFoodBank. The hashtag we usually use is #WeFeedLA.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving people in your community.