



Fighting Hunger. Giving Hope.

Updated January 5, 2021

For More Information:

David May

Marketing/Communications Director

(323) 383-1319 (cell)

[dmay@lafoodbank.org](mailto:dmay@lafoodbank.org)

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC RESPONSE

### Facilities, Transportation, Staff and Volunteers

- The Food Bank's **distribution centers** in South Los Angeles and Commerce are operating with no significant constraints with the exception of following LA County Department of Public Health guidelines. The recent surge in COVID-19 cases locally has impacted Food Bank as **we have 12 employees out of 150 who have tested positive and are currently recovering**. Twenty employees have fully recovered from COVID-19 and have returned to work since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. In addition to the daily cleaning by Food Bank custodial staff, the Food Bank continues to monitor the situation closely for employees and volunteers.
- The acquisition by the Food Bank in August 2020 of a **256,000 sq.ft. distribution center** in the City of Industry is providing additional space while the facility is being renovated to meet the Food Bank's future needs.
- The Food Bank's truck fleet is operating with no constraints throughout LA County. **However, we are seeking donated trucking (refrigerated trucks preferred), for more information go to: <https://www.lafoodbank.org/donate/partnerships/>**
- **We are recruiting volunteers (ages 18 years or older) for on-site volunteer shifts, Food Bank distribution sites and our partner agencies located throughout LA County, for more information, go to: <https://www.lafoodbank.org/volunteer/>**
- Charitable food distribution continues to be deemed as an "essential" service by the State of California and Los Angeles County.

### Food Volume and Inventory

- **Food distribution has increased by 145% compared to the pre-pandemic period.**
- **158 million pounds of food, the equivalent of 130 million meals, have been distributed since the crisis started in March, including 1.78 million emergency food boxes distributed to families and individuals (5.3 million individuals served in total) through partner agencies and direct "Drive Through" and Mobile Food Pantry distributions.**
- Food donations have increased by 140 percent since the pre-pandemic period. **The Food Bank is filling the gap between food supply and demand by purchasing truckloads of food items at wholesale prices utilizing \$10 million of funds committed by Los Angeles County.**
- The Food Bank's on hand food inventory totals 17.5 million pounds, the equivalent of 14.4 million meals of shelf-stable, perishable and frozen food items, approximately a six-week supply.

## Distribution

Food and other grocery products are distributed to people through a network of partner agencies and Food Bank direct distribution programs located throughout Los Angeles County:

- To date, 45 partner agency sites have reported that they have suspended food distributions, with the majority of the sites being food pantries that distribute groceries to families and individuals. ***The vast majority of agencies served by the Food Bank are still operating and have experienced continued record demand for food assistance by families and individuals***
- ***The Food Bank has added 100 new agency partners since the Coronavirus crisis started.***
- The Food Bank provides food to families and individuals through our Mobile Food Pantry program which have transitioned to a ***“Drive-Through” format*** whenever possible to reduce personal interaction per Public Health guidelines. ***Recent distributions serving families and individuals heavily impacted by layoffs, furloughs or a decrease in work hours have ranged from 1,000 to 7,560 families served per distribution. More than 240 distributions have been held serving the communities of Alhambra, Altadena, Athens Village, Arcadia, Arleta, Artesia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Burbank, Carson, Castaic, Commerce, Compton, Covina, Cudahy, Downey, Duarte, East Compton, East LA, El Monte, El Sereno, Florence-Graham, Glendale, Glendora, Hacienda Heights, Hawaiian Gardens, Hawthorne, Huntington Park, Industry, Inglewood, La Puente, Lake Los Angeles, Lake View Terrace, Lancaster, Lennox, Lincoln Heights, Littlerock, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Lynwood, Maywood, Mission Hills, Montebello, Monterey Park, North Hills, Northridge, Norwalk, Quartz Hill, Panorama City, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Pomona, San Fernando, San Pedro, Santa Monica, South LA, South Gate, Sun Valley, Sylmar, Torrance, Van Nuys, West Covina, Wilmington, Willowbrook and Whittier.***
- The Food Bank provides food packages to 27,000 seniors every month at distribution sites throughout LA County. ***With Governor Newsom's request for seniors age 65 and older to stay at home, the Food Bank has developed new partnerships to deliver food to seniors and is also supplementing the distributions of LA County senior meals with food items.***
- ***With school closures, the Food Bank is supplementing school district's “Grab and Go” meal distributions for schoolchildren with additional food for the families at the LA and Inglewood Unified School Districts and 10 other school districts.***

In a typical month before the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Food Bank provided food to 300,000 adults, seniors and children through our partner agency network and Food Bank direct distribution programs. ***The number of people served has increased markedly and is now estimated to be at more than 900,000 people served over the course of a month.***

**Food Assistance:** For people seeking food assistance go to the Food Bank's food pantry locator at: <https://www.lafoodbank.org/find-food/pantry-locator/>

Other important sources of food assistance include:

**CalFresh:** Call 866-613-3777 or visit [www.GetCalFresh.org](http://www.GetCalFresh.org) to apply.

**Grab & Go Meals for School-Aged Children:** Contact your local school district for information.

**Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program:** Call 888-942-9675 to apply.

**Senior/Older Adults:** For meals from LA County and City of LA, call 800-510-2020

**211 LA County** is the information & referral agency, go to [www.211la.org](http://www.211la.org) or call 211

For Los Angeles Regional Food Bank information and updates, go to <https://www.lafoodbank.org>