

Hunger Relief Update – April 20, 2020

General

Hunger Relief Annual Report 2020 is final and available in printed form and on the United Way of Palm Beach County website, Hunger Relief page.

Coronavirus 2020

1. Hunger Relief is partnering with community partners within and outside our network to address short term, midterm, and long term needs of the Palm Beach County communities. We are staying nimble so we can proactively identify needs, address needs as they arise, prepare for expected and unexpected needs and find and/or create solutions. We are also tracking information available through our networks, data, and WebEOC.
2. Hunger Relief for United Way of Palm Beach County continues to coordinate food distribution with PBC Food Bank, Feeding South Florida, Area Agency on Aging and approximately 80 food pantries that are still operating throughout the county. Hunger Relief for UWPBC is the central point of contact for businesses, faith-based entities and others who are interested in donating or distributing food during this crisis.
3. Hunger Relief has been working with United Farmers Alliance (UFA), a group of Palm Beach County farmers, working on solutions to get product from the farms to the at-risk communities in Palm Beach County. UFA is also working with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and helping farmers register on myflorida.com so their products can be sold to FDACS and other entities. UFA expects to begin moving product into our communities this week.
4. **Children and families** can access free meals for kids 18 and under at more than 70 BreakSpot Grab ‘n Go sites around the County.
5. Hunger Relief is working with the School District of Palm Beach County, FLIPANY, Feeding South Florida, and Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County sites. Links to the site schedules can be found on 2-1-1’s website: 211palmbeach.org.
6. **For more information about site locations**, go to: <https://summerbreakspot.freshfromflorida.com/>. Meals are FREE to anyone under 18 years of age (under 22 for ESE students), regardless of financial need. To find a Grab ‘n Go site near you, please visit the website, [Text FLKIDSMEALS to 211-211](tel:211-211) or call 2-1-1.
7. Grab ‘n Go Meals served by the School District of Palm Beach County each week since the schools closed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic:
 - Week of March 16, 2020 - served over 88,000 meals
 - Week of March 23, 2020 - served over 82,000 meals
 - Week of March 30, 2020 – served over 256,000 meals
 - Total meals for the three weeks are over 426,000. The numbers are higher than listed as some of the schools are still reporting in. Please note: Multiple meals are served at once so this number is much higher than the number of children served. **The average number of children served per day is 9,975.**
8. Feeding South Florida distributed food boxes School District of Palm Beach County schools
 - Week of March 16, 2020 - distributed to 30 sites
 - Week of March 23, 2020 – did not distribute
 - March 30, 2020 - distributed to 35 sites
 - Week of April 6, 2020 - did not distribute
 - Week of April 13, 2020 – will distribute to 35 sites

9. Palm Beach County Food Bank partner pantries re-opening this week, week of April 20, 2020:

Agencies Re-Opening	Location
The Arc of the Glades	Belle Glade
Riviera Beach Community Outreach	Riviera Beach
Club 100	Lake Park
Community Outreach Foundation Mission	Riviera Beach
Heart of Gold	West Palm Beach
El Sol	Jupiter
Villages of Hope	Lake Park
Estella's Brilliant Bus	West Palm Beach

10. Feeding South Florida Grab 'n Go Sites

- Total meals served is TBD.

11. FLIPANY Grab 'n Go Sites

- Serving more than 3,500 meals day at 22 sites in The Glades and Eastern Palm Beach County sites, for an average of 160 meals per site, per day.

12. Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County Grab 'n Go Sites

- Serving 1,000 Grab 'n Go lunch and snack daily, seven days a week, and began on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 for an average of 143 meals per site, per day.
 - This program serves as a substitute for the snack and dinner program that is normally available to our Club children in the afterschool program. If Club families get to the Club due to transportation they are doing deliveries.
 - Locations:
 - Boca Raton Club
 - Delray Club
 - Marjorie S. Fisher Club (Westgate)
 - Max M. Fisher Club (Riviera Beach)
 - Florence De George Club (Northwood/Pinewood)
 - Neil S. Hirsch Club (Wellington)
 - The Teen Center Club site in Belle Glade also serves Club members of the six elementary Club sites in The Glades area that are closed due to the School District of Palm Beach County Schools closure

13. **Seniors** who need food should contact the Elder Helpline at 866-684-5885. The PBC Senior Centers are still being used as distribution sites and Palm Tran continues to deliver food to the homes of seniors. *For seniors who are confused or don't remember that number, they can call 2-1-1 who will direct them.*

14. Hunger Relief is working with Area Agency on Aging to develop and vet Agency Pandemic Response Plan.

15. All other individuals who are in need of food should contact 211. 211 receives frequent updates of pantries that remain open and have food. 211 also has information on how to find Grab 'n Go sites around the County that are open for families with children 18 and under. (Please note: Meals are FREE to anyone under 18 years of age (under 22 for ESE students), regardless of financial need. Children do not need to be school age – the program is for those 18 and under.

School District of Palm Beach County feeding sites are open as follows. Please visit the School District of Palm Beach County website for more information:

Week of April 20, 2020

- Serving 35 sites open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday serving from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Week of April 27, 2020

- Serving in the 35 sites on Tuesday, April 28th from 9:00 - 12:00 and Thursday, April 30th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Serving in 16 newly opened sites (listed on the School District of Palm Beach County website) on Thursday, April 30th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Week of May 4, 2020

- Serving in 51 sites on Thursday, May 7th from 9:00 - 12:00 (same sites as on Thursday, April 30th)

The School District of Palm Beach County will continue serving one time a week on Thursdays until further notice.

Family Weekend Backpack meals are being distributed through the Grab 'n Go program due to the Coronavirus Epidemic.

Please Note: Starting April 6, 2020, Child No Longer Required to Be Present:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided a waiver to allow parents/guardians to pick up meals without the child being present. The parent needs to provide confirmation of the number of children for which they are picking up meals, by one of the following methods: student ID, student passport, student library card, student birth certificate, or a photo of adult picking up the meals with the students for who they are picking up meals.

The parent will show the identification to staff providing the meals, and meals will be provided for the number of children identified. The District follows food distribution rules as outlined by the USDA.

P-EBT: We are in touch with our community partners regarding legislative changes and are currently monitoring a partnership between DCF and FDACS for P-EBT. When it's established, clients will be able to file an application through the FDACS website and FDACS will process it. This should be up and running in April and will run concurrently with the School District of Palm Beach County's NSLP program. Those who are receiving P-EBT will still be able to receive school district meals.

Online Grocery Purchase Pilot Program: USDA approved Florida's request to launch an online grocery purchase pilot program. Florida's SNAP recipients will now be able to use EBT cards to make eligible food purchases. A pilot program will launch in Tallahassee on April 16 expanding statewide on April 20.

For more information about the online purchasing pilot, please visit: <https://myflfamilies.com/covid19/access.shtml> [lnks.gd].