

## Hunger Relief Update – April 27, 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 85 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 is 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 began moving product into our communities the week of April 20, 2020.

### Children and Families

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 and Palm Beach County Youth Services sites. Links to the site schedules can be found on 2-1-1's website: 211palmbeach.org.
6. **For more information about site locations:** <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. **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 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.

Grab ‘n Go Meals served by the School District of Palm Beach County each week since the schools closed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic: **The average number of children served per day is 20,000.**

8. **Palm Beach County** will be providing food boxes of fresh produce – 3,600 boxes at select school sites.
9. **Feeding South Florida Grab ‘n Go Sites**
  - Total meals served is TBD.
10. **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.
11. **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
12. **Palm Beach County Youth Services Department BreakSpot Grab ‘n Go Sites.** On April 27, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Summer Food Service Program, in partnership with the Palm Beach County Library System, will begin pre-summer feeding at six sites throughout Palm Beach County. Sites will distribute seven days’ worth of meals to each eligible child.

- Meal distribution will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm, or until all meal kits are distributed. Currently, pre-summer feeding sites will distribute food once a week through Wednesday, May 27.
- Parents picking up kits without their child present must bring identification for the child. Acceptable forms of identification include student ID, child’s passport or other government-issued ID, birth certificate, adoption decree, immunization records, and school demographics. Meal kits will not be provided to parents who do not bring their child or do not provide proper identification.
- Families without transportation may walk up to collect meal kits. Proper COVID-19 safety measures must be practiced by all families, including but not limited to social distancing and wearing facial coverings.

**Monday Distribution:**

Highridge Family Center, 4200 N. Australian Ave., West Palm Beach  
 Main Library, 3650 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach  
 Greenacres Branch Library, 3750 Jog Road, Greenacres

**Wednesday Distribution:**

Belle Glade Branch Library, 725 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Belle Glade  
 Loula V. York Branch Library, 525 Bacom Point Rd., Pahokee  
 Clarence E. Anthony Branch Library, 375 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., South Bay

13. All other individuals who 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.

14. Palm Beach County Food Bank partner pantries re-opened the week April 20, 2020:

<b>Agencies Re-Opening</b>	<b>Location</b>
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

15. CROS Ministries Food Pantry at El Sol in Jupiter is expected to open the week of April 27, 2020.

16. Masks, gloves, and disinfecting supplies were secured for four food pantries and will be delivered on Monday, April 27, 2020. This will enable the following pantries to reopen:

St. Rita Catholic Church	Wellington
Jeff Industries	Lantana
More Than Conquerors Life Center	West Palm Beach
Cidra Church	West Palm Beach

### Seniors

- The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and their providers at the Volen Center and Palm Beach County Division of Senior Services routinely provide a full complement of services such as senior centers, adult day care, congregate food sites, social support, transportation, telephone reassurance, counseling and in-home services. During COVID-19, the Aging Network Providers throughout Palm Beach and Treasure Coast are solving many challenges being experienced by seniors including food. The full wait list has been fully released and existing clients as well as new clients for emergency meals at this difficult time.
- AAA has added a new food supplier, *Toojay's*, and will deliver 5,600 meals on April 30, 2020.
  - Week one – one day at two locations
  - Week two – two days at four locations
  - Week three – three days at six locations
- 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.*
- AAA developed and is in the process of securing additional funding for their Agency Pandemic Response Plan.

### SNAP Outreach/Advocacy

17. **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.
18. **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].

19. **Unlimited SNAP Benefits Match at Florida's Fresh Access Bucks Markets extended to August 2020.** Fresh Access Bucks (FAB) is extending unlimited dollar-for-dollar matches for all SNAP purchased on Florida grown fruits and vegetables at participating markets through

August 31, 2020. For a complete list of participating markets, please visit [feedingflorida.org/promotional-materials/Covid19](https://feedingflorida.org/promotional-materials/Covid19)

20. **SNAP National Day of Action** was April 22, 2020.
21. **COVID-19 School Food Services losses** - An email was drafted and sent to Congressional Representatives about COVID-19 help for school food service to address the losses of our school district food service/nutrition departments to recoup losses, continue programs for summer meals and be ready to feed children when they return to school. The Palm Beach County Commission will be drafting a formal letter to submit as well.