

Hunger Relief Update – May 5, 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.
4. GRANTS - Whole Foods Market Community Giving Program! Hunger Relief received \$5,000 to support COVID-19 Response Fund of Palm Beach County at United Way of Palm Beach County.

Children and Families

5. Children and families can access free meals for kids 18 and under at more than 80 BreakSpot Grab 'n Go sites around the County.
6. 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.
7. **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.
8. **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 May 4, 2020
 - Serving in 51 sites on Thursday, May 7th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Week of May 11, 2020
 - Beginning the week of May 11th school sites will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - The following will be the schedule for May (parents/guardians will receive 3 days worth of meals on each pick up day):

- Thursday, May 7
 - Tuesday, May 12
 - Thursday, May 14
 - Tuesday, May 19
 - Thursday, May 21
 - Tuesday, May 26
 - Thursday, May 28
- 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 meals served per day is 55,000.**

9. **Palm Beach County** will be providing food boxes of fresh produce – 3,600 boxes at eight select school sites.
10. **Feeding South Florida Grab ‘n Go Sites**
 - Total meals served is TBD.
11. **FLIPANY Grab ‘n Go Sites**
 - Serving more than 4,200 meals day at 19 sites in The Glades and Eastern Palm Beach County sites.
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.
 - 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. **Palm Beach County Youth Services Department BreakSpot Grab ‘n Go Sites.**

- Serving 2200 boxes with seven days' worth of meals to each eligible child.
- Meal distribution will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 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
 Lantana Library, 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth

Wednesday Distribution:

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

14. 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.

15. Palm Beach County Food Bank partner pantries re-opened the week May 4, 2020:

Agencies Re-Opening	Location
Caridad Center	Boynton Beach
Cidra	West Palm Beach
Faith Deliverance	Riviera Beach
Jeff Industries	Hypoluxo

16. Masks, gloves, and disinfecting supplies were secured for four food pantries and delivered on Monday, April 27, 2020. This enabled 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 delivered 17,404 meals the week of April 27, 2020. More than double!
 - 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. The pilot program launched in Tallahassee on April 16 expanded statewide on April 20.

For more information about the online purchasing pilot, please visit:

[https://myflfamilies.com/covid19/access.shtml \[lnks.gd\]](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

20. **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.