Keeping it Fresh: Food Resources During a Pandemic
Feeding our neighbors, Fulfilling our promise.
AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC,

MILLIONS OF PENNSYLVANIANS FACED HUNGER FOR THE FIRST TIME.
FOOD PANTRY VS. FOOD BANK

FOOD PANTRY/AGENCY = DIRECT TO CLIENTS  FOOD BANK = DISTRIBUTION CENTER
ONSET OF COVID-19

On average, Pennsylvania’s food banks serve nearly 2.2 million Pennsylvanians annually, yet during the first three months of our COVID-19 response, PA’s food banks served more than 5.5 million people.

1 in 20 Pennsylvanians newly food insecure.

- Distributed over 262 million lbs.
- Shifted to a 'Boxed Model'
- Added Drive-thru Distributions

12% of Pennsylvanians projected to be food insecure in 2021.
OUR NETWORK

➔ 9 MEMBER FOOD BANKS
➔ 67 COUNTIES SERVED
➔ 3,000 PARTNER AGENCIES
VIEWING CRITICAL NEEDS IN CONTEXT

FOOD BANK COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TEAM FORMED IN JULY 2020
Farm to Table Buy Local – 501c3 started in 2018 to promote local agriculture and to improve access to fresh, locally grown foods.

March, 2020 - shift from brand promotion & Cooking Clubs in affordable housing to procuring meals & food boxes.

All deliveries made door-to-door.

Funding from foundations & USDA contract.
Boxes delivered door-to-door to residents.

Allegheny County Housing Authority & Housing Authority of Beaver County – senior & family sites.
WHAT OTHER HUNGER AND HOUSING COLLABORATIONS ARE ONGOING?

**Summer Food Program for Kids and Teens**
- Advertising
- Sites at housing complexes

**Home Delivery Continued**
- Welcome home boxes with Habitat for Humanity in Allegheny County
- Church of The Redeemed in Beaver and the Beaver County Housing Authority
- Health insurance carriers are delivering food. Some instances after a hospital stay and some built into plan for low-income Medicare Advantage members.

**Home Delivery**
- American HealthCare Group with Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington
- Farm to Table Buy Local with Allegheny County Housing Authority
- McKeesport AGAPE and CISS House of Hope Ministries for homebound neighbors in low-income housing
What Other Hunger and Housing Collaborations Are Ongoing?

- Partner with Hunger organizations to provide on-site programming to engage residents.
- Assist in applications for SNAP, WIC & other benefits to free up resources for food.
- New Online Resources at the Food Bank: https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/what-we-do(individuals-families/snap-and-life-stabilization-services/life-stabilization-resources/
- Senior Food Box Distributions at Senior High Rises
- Afterschool Meal Sites for Kids and Teens
WHAT OTHER POSSIBILITIES
EXIST TO PARTNER IN THE HUNGER & HOUSING SECTORS?

● Providing food boxes directly to housing organizations and having resident volunteers do deliveries or residents can pick up in community room.

● 2-way referral partnerships
  ○ The Food Bank is focusing more on outbound referrals at our Call Center
  ○ 2-question food insecurity screening that can be part of housing intake processes or questionnaires
  ○ New online referral form for the Food Bank: www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/referral

● Education Station at the Food Bank’s new onsite pantry for co-locating/info-sharing/workshop opportunities

● Fresh food distribution on-site at housing complexes
WHAT OTHER POSSIBILITIES EXIST TO PARTNER IN THE HUNGER & HOUSING SECTORS?

- Offering more choice in food
  - Washington County pantries switching from a “push” model to custom orders
- Transportation partnerships to bring people to food resources.
  - Adams Place in Cochranton, PA in Crawford County has partnered with local transportation company.
    Advocate for bus stops for residents
- Local grocery deliveries
- Farmers Markets onsite – Bedners Farm in Washington County set up a farm stand at senior high rise. Vendors take SNAP, WIC and Farmers Market Nutrition Vouchers.
- Cooking Clubs – food preparation instruction, food procurement, bulk purchasing.
- New Ideas!
CONTACT INFORMATION

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