

To our Agency Partners in Eastern Michigan:

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is a constant in the lives of thousands of hungry people in need on a daily basis in the 22 counties that we serve. But what I am even more proud of is our organization's ability to quickly adapt, anticipate, and meet new and unforeseen needs that arise in times of distress, such as this month's global COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak.

As Food Bank partners, you are no doubt aware of the impact that our partnership has on people in need all over our service area on a daily basis. We also are aware that unforeseen emergencies can put difficult stresses on community organizations like yours and create concerns when it comes to providing food to the people we serve. We want you to know that the Food Bank is here to support you and the needs of the people you serve during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Our staff is actively engaged in conversations with trusted sources that include the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor's office, the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Health Department, the United Way, and the American Red Cross, among others, to assess the community's needs and how the Food Bank can lend support to and facilitate a well-coordinated response.

The nature of this emergency is unpredictable and information changes rapidly. But what we do know is that many of our partner organizations could soon face closures, limited hours, staffing shortages or other disruptions that present barriers to getting food to people in need. The Food Bank is prepared to work with our partners to help children and families get food when school is closed, to continue assisting seniors with getting food, and to provide additional mobile distribution options if food pantries in our community face long-term closures due to the outbreak.

We encourage ANY of our partner organizations experiencing closures, changes in hours, or other precautionary measures that change your operations to contact the Food Bank at (810) 239-4441 and talk with our Outreach team. Our Outreach staff members can help communicate those changes to residents who contact us and can also explain potential resources that may be available as alternate ways to get food to people in need.

Our team, with the leadership and support of our Board of Directors, has the utmost passion for our role as a trusted, reliable pillar of the community. We take immense pride in our ability to meet whatever challenges arise, to assist other organizations in proactively responding to emergencies and helping people meet their basic needs, and to be a stabilizing force in times of crises. We will continue to update the community and our partners with any operational adjustments and ways to ensure people in need continue to get the food and resources they need. Please regularly check our website, www.FBEM.org, for information.

We are grateful for your support and the work you do in our community.

Sincerely:



President & CEO
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan