

ATTENTION OHKAY OWINGEH & NORTHERN NEW MEXICO – FOOD IS AVAILABLE

This week, The Food Depot launched efforts to continue providing essential hunger relief to our most vulnerable community members while minimizing opportunities for novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to spread. The health and safety of our community are a top priority—and that includes access to food.

The Food Depot, as northern New Mexico's food bank, is in a unique position to support low income families in developing a supply of food that can sustain them for several days or weeks as this public health event evolves. The food bank believes that access to grocery items supports continued social distancing strategies and builds the capacity of struggling families to provide for themselves.

The food provided by The Food Depot and the majority of its partners in hunger relief takes the form of grocery items—nonperishable staple foods, produce, bread, and perishable items as they are available. The food bank has purchased additional food including nonperishable items and produce to ensure continued food supply. In addition, The Food Depot has hired temporary staff and rented trucks to increase distribution capacity. Expenses related to this response exceed \$200,000.

In Rio Arriba County, The Food Depot has added the following distribution:

- Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon, Ohkay Hotel Casino Parking Lot

People seeking food assistance should be prepared to provide basic information including their name, address and self-declared income (no documentation required). Times are subject to change, and food distribution will close if the food runs out before the end time.

A note about safety:

The Food Depot is committed to social distancing strategies and following procedures that are proven to prevent virus transmission. The food bank is taking the following steps to protect the community, its volunteers, and its staff:

- Partner nonprofit organizations are being offered hospital grade sanitizer and instructions, as well as volunteer safety protocols
- The Food Depot is sanitizing all volunteer spaces before and after each shift, and sanitizes high touch surfaces frequently throughout the day
- All volunteers are screened using the NMDOH screening tool to identify exposure and risk categories
- All volunteers are trained before each shift in proper handwashing and social distancing behaviors
- All volunteers are provided with the appropriate supplies to maintain prevention procedures

- All volunteers are supervised and supported in following prevention procedures during their shift
- Food distributions are executed using a low/no-contact drive-thru approach

How can you help?

Volunteer: If you are able, volunteers are needed to pack food bags for distribution and to support the food distributions.

Donate: If you have the resources, make a financial contribution.

Share: Share information about The Food Depot's food distributions through your communication channels.