

Feeding Texas Spotlight

Client Empowerment Corps VISTAs Join the Food Bank

In partnership with Feeding Texas, we're excited to be hosting three AmeriCorps VISTAs who are part of the statewide Client Empowerment Corps project. This initiative is designed to help food banks build capacity and decrease food insecurity by increasing access to health resources and economic opportunities for families in need. The VISTAs will be completing the first year of these three-year assignments with the Food Bank.

Our goal is to help Partner Agencies better serve their clients with more support services, partnerships and access to information. VISTAs Hana Le, Lauren Bednarski and Stacy Katzman will be meeting with community partners, clients and Partner Agencies to understand the need in your communities.

[Read the story](#) to learn more about them and their projects

Latest News & Reminders

SAVE THE DATE | Partner Agency Conference

Save the date for the upcoming ReThink Hunger Partner Agency Conference. Join the Food Bank in discovering how to realign our mission to end hunger by providing a holistic approach to our clients' needs.

Friday, May 1, 2015
8:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

For the City Center
500 East St. Johns Ave.
Austin, TX, 78752

REMINDER | SNAP (Food Stamps) Outreach

The Food Bank's Social Services Outreach Program can help your clients enroll in social programs that can make healthy food more affordable for them and their families. Our staff experts provide phone and in-person consultations in English and Spanish.

Direct clients to [our website](#) to learn more about our services and to connect with a Food Bank outreach specialist. You can also [make a referral online](#).

Our outreach specialists are available for on-site visits or individual appointments. Call 512-684-2550, or email snap@austinfoodbank.org to schedule a visit.

Latest News & Reminders (continued)

REMINDER | Monthly Reports Due by February 15

Please submit your January monthly reports no later than February 15 to avoid being placed on hold.

All reports must now be submitted online using our new and improved web forms. Please update your bookmarks and saved website links to <https://www.austinfoodbank.org/agencies/reporting>.

Reports are due on the first of the month for the month prior but you have until the 15th of each month to avoid being placed “on hold” status.

POLICY REVIEW | Food Labels

We require proper labels for all products distributed including repackaged products. On page 14 of the Policies and Procedures Manual it states: “Food and non-foods for distribution to clients must all be clearly labeled with the item name, the ingredients, manufacturer name and net weight”.

If you are distributing re-packaged bagged pinto or mixed beans, please provide the information below with each bag. [For your convenience, you can download and print out this ingredient label.](#)

Pinto Beans or Mixed Beans

Distributed by: Capital Area Food Bank of Texas: 8201 South Congress, Austin, TX 78745

Weight: 1 lbs.

Cooking Instructions:

1 lb. makes 6-8 servings/ Uno libra = seis a ocho servidas

English

- 1) Rinse and sort beans in a 3-quart saucepan
- 2) Cover the beans with two inches of water
- 3) Bring the water to rapid boil for 2 minutes and then remove the beans from the heat
- 4) Let stand for 1 hour or overnight
- 5) Simmer for 1 to 1 ½ hours
- 6) Salt and flavor to taste

Spanish

- 1) Hay que enjuagar y separar los frijoles en una cacerola de tres cuartos
- 2) Cubra los frijoles con dos pulgadas de agua
- 3) Deja la agua hervir rapidamente por dos minutos y luego quite los frijoles del lo caliente
- 4) Dejenos estar por una hora o toda la noche
- 5) Pongalos a guiso lento por una hora o hora y media
- 6) Pongale sal y sabor al gusto

Latest News & Reminders (continued)

REMINDER | Are your food safety and civil rights trainings up to date?

We require at least one person from your agency to attend annual food safety training and Civil Rights training. If you take a class through an online provider, please send us copies of your certificate.

If your agency's training is expired, you will be placed on hold and will not receive food until your training is updated. Don't know when your training expires? Call the Food Bank at 512-282-2111, and an agency relations representative will tell you.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Regional Training
Tuesday, February 10
11:00 A.M. — 1:00 P.M.
Abundant Life Church
1210 Florence Road
Killeen, TX 76541

Austin/Travis County
Monday, February 23
1:00 P.M. — 3:00 P.M.
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas
8201 S. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78745

RSVP to agencies@austinfoodbank.org.

UPDATE | Feeding With Impact

This legislative session, Feeding Texas and member food banks are asking the Texas Legislature to support our Feeding with Impact initiative which includes an increase in funding for the Surplus Agriculture Grant and the Brighter Bites program. If this is approved, the Capital Area Food Bank can expect to receive up to 10 million pounds of healthy food, up from 1.5 million pounds. That's a lot more healthy produce for your clients! [Read more about it on our website.](#)

You can help by contacting all members in your district who are on the Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees: Senator Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham; Senator Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown; Senator Kirk Watson, D- Austin; Rep. Dawwna Dukes, D-Austin; Rep. Larry Gonzales, R-Round Rock; Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin. [Visit our advocacy page](#) for a directory of phone numbers and email addresses.

Latest News & Reminders (continued)

Contact the Team

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