



Partner Agency Newsletter

August 2019

SPOTLIGHTS: Meal Connect

MealConnect is an innovative online platform that coordinates food donations and ensures easy reporting to the Food Bank's food donor partners.

Partner Agencies participating in the Agency Retail Pickup program will already be familiar with the donation tracking capabilities of MealConnect. But over the past year, Feeding America has added additional features to the platform.



Now, MealConnect is available to donors from any smartphone, tablet or computer to make an immediate impact in the communities where they operate. MealConnect is free for all users and all donations are tax-deductible.

After a food donor makes a donation posting online, MealConnect will automatically alert nearby volunteers and agencies that can choose to complete the pickup and deliver the food to a nearby pantry.

To learn more about MealConnect, contact us at agencies@centraltexasfoodbank.org or 512-684-1406.

Closures:

The Food Bank will be closed for Labor Day and Year-End Inventory in September. There will be no pick-ups, deliveries, or shop-for on these days. Please note the upcoming closure dates and times:

- **Monday, September 2 (Labor Day)**
 - If you pick up at CTFB or regional delivery drop site on Tuesday, September 3 or Wednesday, September 4, please order accordingly:
 - Tuesday, September 3: Order due by 9am on Thursday, August 29

- Wednesday, September 4: Order due by 9am on Friday, August 30
- **Monday, September 23 – Monday, September 30** (Year-end inventory)
 - Agency Express will close at 9am on Wednesday, Sept 18 and will re-open at 12pm on Thursday, Sept 26
 - *If you pick up at CTFB or regional delivery drop site on Tuesday, Oct 1, please order by 9am on Friday, Sept 27
 - Regular ordering schedule resumes at 10am on Friday, Sept 27

If you normally pick up during these closures, either order extra food the week prior or contact Michelle White, Supply Chain Coordinator, at 512-684-2150 to schedule an alternate pickup day at the Food Bank. Regional deliveries will not be rescheduled, but agencies who usually receive deliveries may schedule a pickup at Central Texas Food Bank as our schedule permits. Ordering guidelines for closures will be posted and sent out 30 days prior to these dates so you can plan for your pantry needs. Check our website [here](#) for the most up to date closure information.

Reminders & Resources:

“Better Together” Regional Meetings

We’re bringing our partners together for regional meetings and we want you to be there! These meetings will be focused on sharing network successes and challenges, communicating updates and working on laying a foundation for how we will move our hunger relief work forward together as a network. There will also be opportunities to meet and network with new and existing staff from the Food Bank’s Agency Services Team.

Bastrop County

Thursday, August 29
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Bastrop Convention &
Exhibit Center

1408 Chestnut St.
Bastrop, Texas 78602

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Bell County

Tuesday, September 10
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn Temple

1749 Scott Blvd.
Temple, Texas 76504

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

McLennan County

Thursday, September 26
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Hilton Waco

113 S. University Parks. Dr.
Waco, Texas 76701

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Flea Market

Please join us from 8am-12pm on Saturday, September 14th for another non-food flea market. All active partner agencies are eligible to shop! If you plan to attend, please email

agencies@centraltexasfoodbank.org



Income Eligibility Guidelines Update

USDA annually publishes the TEFAP Income Eligibility Guidelines, which contain household qualifying income cut-offs for annual, monthly, and weekly income levels per number of household members. The eligibility guidelines cover the period from July 1 through June 30. Current income guidelines must be utilized by partner agencies as soon as the food bank makes them available.

- *The 2019-20 Income Eligibility Guidelines are now available for your agency to use beginning July 1, 2019.* Please notify all staff/volunteers and ensure this new form is now being utilized.
- The new guidelines have been updated on the USDA Intake Forms, which can be found in the [Agencies Resource Center](#) online.

Freezer Blankets

As of July 1, the Central Texas Food Bank began enforcing the requirement that all Partner Agencies without refrigerated vehicles or coolers with ice/cold packs must utilize insulated freezer blankets for transporting perishable food to comply with safe food handling policies. The Food Bank is initially providing one (1) free freezer blanket to Agencies, to be given on your first July order.



If your agency loses your freezer blanket or you need more freezer blankets than the one given to you by CTFB, additional blankets are available for purchase on the agency shopping list. Additional blankets are 8'x10' and cost \$45 each. Please review the [FAQ](#) and [How-To Guide](#) documents or contact agencies@centraltexasfoodbank.org with questions.

TEFAP Forecast:

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|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Apples | Potatoes | Grapes | Orange Juice | Canned Mixed Veggies |
| Plums | US #2 Long Grain Rice | Spaghetti Sauce | Garbanzo beans | Apple Sauce |
| 1% Fresh Milk | Frozen Ham | Flour | Whole Grain Spaghetti | Corn Flakes |

Contact the Team:

| Name | Title | Phone | Email Address |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Emily De Maria | Chief Program Officer | 512-684-2541 | edemaria@centraltexasfoodbank.org |
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| Jessica Buchoz | Agency Compliance Specialist | 512-684-2513 | jbuchoz@centraltexasfoodbank.org |
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