



COVID-19 Response Impact Report

COVID-19 ESCALATES FOOD INSECURITY

The need across southwestern Pennsylvania has increased dramatically due to the effects of COVID-19. **Due to COVID-19, our region has seen a 42 percent increase in food insecurity since 2018.** In 2018, approximately 260,000 people were food insecure. Due to the pandemic, that number is now about 370,000.

Individuals and families who never imagined asking for a helping hand have turned to the Food Bank for the first time. People and neighborhoods most vulnerable to food insecurity - especially communities of color and groups such as children, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities and people in rural communities - need our support more than ever to ensure they have a steady source of fresh and healthy food.

Pandemic Response by the Numbers

Through your support, **55.2 million pounds** enough food for more than **46 million meals** has been delivered to our neighbors in need across 11 counties of southwestern Pennsylvania including ...

More than **42.4 million** pounds distributed through nearly **600** partners and programs



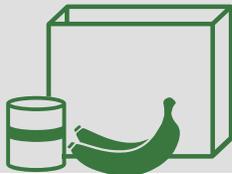
Nearly **11.7 million** pounds of all food distributed was fresh produce



Nearly **4.3 million** pounds through drive-up distributions



More than **1.2 million** pounds through Community Partner Organizations



More than **361,000** pounds through the Doorstep Delivery program



More than **228,000** pounds at emergency food services at the Food Bank warehouse



More than **3.4 million** pounds to children through meal sites during the school year and the Summer Youth Cafe



SNAP (food stamps) application assistance resulted in more than **3.3 million** pounds of food



These numbers reflect food distributed between March 16, 2020 and February 28, 2021. In comparison, between March 2019 and February 2020, the Food Bank and its network distributed more than **44.5 million pounds**, enough food for **37.1 million meals**.

In Their Own Words...



Amy is living with her daughter and has never used food assistance before. Amy is fighting a rare type of cancer and because of COVID-19 her daughter is unable to work.

“We ran out of money because my daughter was working at the hospital and she had to stop because I have cancer and she worked at the hospital. She’s my caregiver so we had to find some food and they directed us down here.”

Amy drove an hour and a half to attend a drive-up distribution at PPG Paints Arena.

“I had tears in my eyes when they said I could come. I’m down to the last of my food so what this means to me and my family is we get to eat for the rest of the month and I don’t have to worry. I can sleep - I haven’t slept because in my head, because I’m so worried about making sure we’re ok.”

Amy is thankful for everyone who came together to make the drive-up distributions possible.

“We are thankful for you all risking your lives with the virus and stuff to be out here. You could catch something, but you’re out here helping us. So that means a lot. They’re [the volunteers and staff] real heroes to us.”

Curtis and Audrey are doing their best to make ends meet, but the COVID-19 pandemic is making that a challenge. While Audrey waits for her disability to come through, Curtis had been working at a hotel and a local restaurant, but is furloughed from both right now.

“I’ve been not working for about a year and a half now waiting for disability and he’s been furloughed from his job since March. Anything we can do to get a little help, we’re very appreciative of it.”

Audrey has growing concerns about the virus, but is thankful for the help they were able to receive through the drive-up distribution at the airport.

“My anxiety has been through the roof,” Audrey says. “We’ve never had to do this and it’s very heartfelt thank you’s that I give people and we’re blessed to be able to come out.”

To the donors and volunteers who make these drive-up events possible, Curtis and Audrey shared,

“People like yourselves, you’re heroes to us. You guys still have to go home to your families. As long as you stay safe, that’s all we can ask for. But we are blessed that people have stepped up and are able to do things.”



Thank you for supporting our neighbors during these unprecedented times. Your generosity has meant that thousands of our neighbors - families, children and seniors - have had access to the food they need. Together we can ensure that all of our neighbors have enough to eat for today, tomorrow and a lifetime.

Learn more and get involved at pittsburghfoodbank.org.