

## UNITED WAY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

- **Food Finder Map**

An interactive tool developed by United Way of Palm Beach County using Google Maps to help people easily locate free food and hot meals in Palm Beach County. This online tool was created to connect individuals seeking food resources to sites near them. Information is English, Spanish, and Creole. United Way updates the information listed on this map weekly. However, locations and hours of distribution may change. Please consider calling the site prior to visiting to verify information listed. Please note that sites may have specific requirements such as ID. Please visit <https://unitedwaypbc.org/hunger/> to view the map. As of this week, there were 94,000 visits to the Food Finder Map since the Map was developed.

- **Hunger Relief Department**

Hunger Relief staff are partnering with community partners within and outside our network to address short term, midterm, and long-term needs of the Palm Beach County communities. We are staying nimble so we can proactively identify needs, address needs as they arise, prepare for expected and unexpected needs and find and/or create solutions. We are also tracking information available through our networks, data, and WebEOC. Hunger Relief for United Way of Palm Beach County continues to coordinate food distribution with PBC Food Bank, Feeding South Florida, Area Agency on Aging and approximately 91 food pantries that are still operating throughout the county.

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

- **COVID-19 PSAs**

United Way of Palm Beach County, in partnership with Palm Beach County, Florida Department of Health, and 2-1-1, developed a Public Service Announcement (PSA) tool to educate the community about key information regarding COVID-19 and connect them with resources offered in the County. The PSA is available in English, Spanish, and Creole and can be used widely by organizations such as businesses, food distribution sites, and social service agencies.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- **Grab 'n Go Meals**

Children and families can access free meals for kids 18 and under at more than 100 BreakSpot Grab 'n Go sites around the County. Meals are FREE to anyone under 18 years of age (under 22 for ESE students), regardless of financial need. Hunger Relief is working with the School District of Palm Beach County, FLIPANY, and Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County sites.

To find more information about Grab 'n Go sites:

- Links to the sites and schedules can be found on 2-1-1's website at <https://211palmbeach.org/corona-pbc>
- For more information about site locations visit <https://summerbreakspot.freshfromflorida.com/>
- Text FLKIDSMEALS to 211-211 or call 2-1-1

All other individuals who are in need of food should contact 211. 211 receives frequent updates of pantries that remain open and have food.

- **FLIPANY Grab 'n Go Sites – Free 7-Day Meal Boxes for All Youth**

Families can visit any of the following locations in Palm Beach County to receive a free meal box for their children. Meal boxes contain seven days of breakfast and lunch for a combination of fresh and shelf-stable items; milk included. All items are prepackaged and combined in one box for ease in distribution via a drive-thru or walk-up pick-up line at the associated site:

New Disciples Worship Center  
239 NE 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Boynton Beach, FL 33235  
Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## Hunger Relief Update – Week of March 8, 2021



New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
2221 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Boynton Beach, FL 33435  
Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- **Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County Grab 'n Go Sites**

The Grab 'n Go program serves as a substitute for the snack and dinner program that is normally available to our Club children in the afterschool program. For Club families with transportation challenges delivery is available.

- **Farm to Family Program**

Developed by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County in partnership with a network of local farmers to enhance Grab 'n Go meals. Partners include: Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Lox Farms, Fresh RX, Living Hungry, Farm to Share, Aioli, Gratitude Gardens, Kai Kai Farms, Holman's Harvest, Florida Crystals, GL Homes, Old School Bakery, Farm Share, TKM, Tropical Shipping, Gekks, V and B Farms, All American Citrus, Lake Meadow, Brown Distributing, Sysco, GFA International, Dynatech International.

- **School Meals**

The following are school year 2020-2021 numbers:

Total meals served since July 1, 2020 – More than 11,552,000. Number of grab-and-go meals cannot be separated from the meals served in school at this time.

Food Boxes from Feeding South Florida - 40,227.

No Family Food Boxes from the other organizations in FY20-21.

Produce boxes from Palm Beach County through the Cares Act - 722,403 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables.

### **School District of Palm Beach County feeding sites are open as follows:**

- School meals continue to be free for ALL students. Food distribution sites are open on Thursdays at various times.
- Students attending school in person can receive snacks during dismissal, Monday through Friday. Weekend meal kits will include breakfast, lunch, suppers, and snacks will also be available during dismissal for students in in-person instruction.
- Students or parents who pick up meals on Thursdays will be offered boxes with pantry style foods for seven days-worth of breakfasts, lunches, snacks and suppers.
- All children 18 years of age and younger (22 and younger for ESE) are eligible for the free meals.
- The [list of locations](#) specifies the food distribution sites and the times of meal pick up. Parents do not need to visit their child's school for food distribution, they can visit any location of their choice. Distribution times and locations are subject to change.
- A child does not have to be present to pick up meals. However, one of the following forms of identification is required to receive meals at the food distribution sites: Student ID Badge, Student Barcode Letter (that can be found in your [child's student portal](#)), Passport, Birth Certificate, or Library Card. The adult picking up the meals can also bring a picture that has themselves and the children for whom they are picking up food, in the photo.
- Meals may contain allergens. Adults picking up the food are asked to be vigilant and ensure they do not take food if allergies may be a concern. Food should be refrigerated or discarded if not consumed upon receipt.
- For everyone's health and safety, a **facial covering or mask is required** when picking up meals at any school food distribution site.

## SENIORS

- **Area Agency on Aging**

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and their providers at The Volen Center and Palm Beach County Division of Senior Services routinely provide a full complement of services such as senior centers, adult day care, congregate food sites, social support, transportation, telephone reassurance, counseling and in-home services. During COVID-19, the Aging Network Providers throughout Palm Beach and Treasure Coast are solving many challenges being experienced by seniors including food.

AAA adapted to changes to service delivery requirements including assessments, nutrition requirements, meal packaging and recordkeeping

New nutrition services were offered by AAA and their partners including shopping assistance, telephone reassurance, and Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Services expanding their kosher home-delivered meals.

- **Drop and Go Meals**

The partnership between Area Agency on Aging, The Volen Center, and Palm Beach County Division of Senior Services, and Norman Rales Jewish Family Services delivered 64,092 meals during the month of February 2021 in Palm Beach County.

Seniors who need food should contact the Elder Helpline at 866-684-5885. The PBC Senior Centers are still being used as distribution sites and Palm Tran continues to deliver food to the homes of seniors. For seniors who are confused or don't remember that number, they can call 2-1-1 who will direct them.

Hunger Relief community partners are working with AAA to identify any needs and gaps related to COVID-19, developed programs to address the needs and gaps, as well as strategies to secure funding to continue these programs post COVID-19.

- **Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches, Inc. (MOWPB)**

During COVID-19, MOWPB has temporarily adjusted their meal operations to provide seven frozen dinner meals along with three breakfast meals each week with deliveries once a week. In addition, seniors who are normally mobile but are unable to shop due to COVID-19 are being served on a short-term basis with the 10 meals delivered weekly at no cost. To setup service please call (561) 802-6979 extension 6.

MOWPB serves those individuals aged 65 and over who are home bound due to age, infirmity or debilitating illness and are unable or struggling to food shop and prepare nutritious meals. Their clients are either living alone, or with their spouse/partner who may also be home bound or who may be the fulltime caregiver.

MOWPB has been serving 2,500 meals a week to 300 people.

- **Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (PBSO)**

PBSO has established a new program to assist our Palm Beach County elderly residents who are unable to leave their homes to go to the grocery store or the pharmacy. Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Volunteers are ready to deliver orders directly to their doors.

This program is AVAILABLE ONLY IN AREAS WHERE PBSO HAS JURISDICTION. If PBSO does not have a presence in your area they WILL NOT DELIVER.

## BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Cold Storage Capacity Building Grant**

This opportunity was made possible by a three-year grant from the Farris Foundation.

2020 -2021 Cold Storage Grant: Awarded 27 cold storage units to 14 food pantries.

Increased cold storage capacity in Palm Beach County by 4,422 cu ft. (A cumulative total of 9,820.5 cu ft. for all three years of the grant)

190,967 pounds of perishable food stored and distributed to food insecure families; a cumulative total of 215,357 lbs. (year 2: 2019 -2020).

Increased the number of people served by 51 percent; 27,959 individuals served monthly (year 2: 2019 -2020).  
Decreased food waste by 11 percent (year 2: 2019 -2020).

In the process of signing agreements with the awarded agencies/coordinating delivery of the units for year three.

Many food pantries closed due to COVID-19. United Way of Palm Beach County is keeping abreast of their needs and connecting them with food, PPE, and other needed resources to help them reopen or prevent them from closing. We are fortunate to be part of a vast network of partners that make this possible.

- **Pantry Project**

Geographic Assessment of Pantries (GAP) Phase II: In Focus was presented to the Hunger Relief Advisory Council.

Key Takeaways: Improved communication/coordination and increase capacity.

United Way of Palm Beach County Hunger Relief is in the process of scheduling follow up meetings, organized by Emergency Operations Areas (EOAs), to convene the pantry partners and develop communication/coordination strategies and identify ways to increase capacity.

United Way of Palm Beach County Hunger Relief, Palm Beach County and 211 are currently discussing coordination necessary for a shared data source to store food distribution site data and other social service resources for most accurate and up-to-date information.

- **Healthy Corner Stores Initiative**

The initiative continues to work with two corner stores in The Glades to increase their capacity. One corner store, Sam's Food Store, Canal Point, is offering fresh produce and healthy food options to its customers. The implementation at the second store, South Bay Food Store is moving forward with equipment, shelving and refrigeration units ordered.

- **Farmers Helping Families**

Hunger Relief is working with United Farmers Alliance (UFA) Farmers Helping Families, a group of Palm Beach County farmers, working on solutions to get product from the farms to the at-risk communities in Palm Beach County. UFA is working with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and helping farmers register on myflorida.com so their products can be sold to FDACS and other entities. UFA is also partnering with Feed the Hungry, Boca Helping Hands, Feeding Palm Beach County (Feeding South Florida) and Palm Beach Harvest, and others to help get food into our community. In 2020, UFA distributed 131,000 pounds of healthy local produce with a value of \$361,000 to the Palm Beach County community. UFA/Farmers Helping Families is now approved to accept SNAP/EBT and is working on approval to accept Fresh Access Bucks.

There is much information on what the farmers in the Glades have been contributing to the County, School District of Palm Beach County, and food banks (Feeding South Florida, Palm Beach County Food Bank, etc.) for distribution. Their information is available on their social media and EAA Farmers information.

Palm Beach Harvest and Boys and Girls Clubs have been doing weekly produce distributions in The Glades.

Florida Crystals continues to donate rice and sugar to local organizations.

- Farm to Families Food Box Program**

Washington, D.C., January 4, 2021 – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will purchase an additional \$1.5 billion worth of food for nationwide distribution through the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. In total, USDA has [distributed more than 132 million food boxes](#) in support of American farmers and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The additional funding for the program was included in the COVID-19 relief package as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act passed December 21, 2020. In this fifth round of purchases, USDA will again purchase combination boxes to ensure all involved recipient organizations have access to fresh produce, dairy products, fluid milk and meat products, and seafood products will also be included in this round. Food boxes were distributed beginning the week of January 25, 2021.

## SNAP OUTREACH AND HUNGER RELIEF ADVOCACY

- SNAP Advocacy**

Hunger Relief is monitoring the roll out of the new, increased SNAP benefits and monitoring the progress of the next stimulus package.

- SNAP Outreach Education Campaign**

United Way of Palm Beach County is working with community partners to develop a comprehensive SNAP Outreach Education Campaign. Partners include No Kid Hungry, Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County, Area Agency on Aging, American Heart Association, Healthier Jupiter/Jupiter Medical Center, and Department of Children and Families. Materials are being developed and strategies identified.

- Maximum Monthly Allotment**

Governor Ron DeSantis directed DCF to coordinate with our federal partners to temporarily increase all Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients’ benefit amounts to the maximum monthly allotment based on household size for March 2020 through March 2021.

Additionally, in December 2020, President Donald Trump signed the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, which increased the benefit amounts for SNAP clients each month from January 2021 through June 2021.

Households that normally receive their benefits between March 1st and 10th, will receive their maximum allotment supplement on March 11th. Households that receive their benefits after March 10th, will receive their maximum allotment supplement on their regularly staggered issuance schedule. New households approved for SNAP will have a supplement issued within 2 weeks. The maximum allotments can be viewed in the table below.

People in Household	Maximum Benefit Amount – effective 10/1/2020	Maximum Benefit Amount Effective 1/1/2021 includes 15% increase per the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
1	\$204	\$234
2	\$374	\$430
3	\$535	\$616
4	\$680	\$782
5	\$807	\$929
6	\$969	\$1,114
7	\$1,071	\$1,232
8	\$1,224	\$1,408
For Each Additional Person	+\$153	+\$176

Please contact DCF’s Customer Call Center at 850-300-4323 or visit [www.myflfamilies.com/covid19/access.shtml](http://www.myflfamilies.com/covid19/access.shtml) for more information.

- **Recertifications**

DCF waived recertifications from April through August 2020. DCF stands ready to assist Florida’s benefit clients if needed through the recertification process, which can be done virtually and through the self-service portal.

Medicaid recipients will remain eligible for the duration of the public health emergency as declared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)**

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) is a supplemental benefit for households with children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures.

Florida’s EBT plan was approved last week. For more information visit

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/florida#snap>.

- **How to Apply for SNAP Benefits**

The Department of Children and Families has worked diligently to ensure our clients have easy access to apply for benefits during this public health emergency. DCF’s Statewide Customer Call Center is available for customer questions and application assistance with agents available for extended hours, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The fastest way to get information and apply for benefits is online at <https://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida>. Customers can report changes, upload documents, and check the status of their application and benefits through their [MyACCESS Self-Service Portal](#). DCF continues to work quickly to process the growing number of applications as a result of COVID-19.

- **Expanded Locations to Sign-up for SNAP Benefits**

Location	Days/Times
Greenacres Branch Library	Mondays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Jupiter Branch Library	Mondays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Hagen Ranch Road Branch Library	Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Glades Road Branch Library	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
West Boynton Branch Library (beg. 2/17)	Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Okeechobee Boulevard Branch Library	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Royal Palm Beach Branch Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Main Branch Library	Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- **Work Requirements Waiver**

Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, DCF applied good cause and suspended work requirements for the months of March 2020 through March 2021.

In Florida, Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) are individuals who received SNAP, or food assistance, and are subject to the work requirements. ABAWDs must meet monthly work requirements.

- **Maintain Medicaid Eligibility**

Due to the public health emergency, individuals applying for Medicaid may be unable to submit all the documentation required to process their application. As a result, applicants now have 120 days for the date of submission to provide all required documentation to complete their application. If the Medicaid application is approved, the individual’s Medicaid eligibility effective date will still be the first day of the month that the initial application was received.

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- **Medicaid Eligibility and Applications**

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- **SNAP Online Purchasing**

In coordination with federal, state, and local partners, the online purchasing pilot ensures Floridians can access nutritious food while also practicing social distancing and self-quarantining practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

SNAP recipients may purchase groceries online with the use of an EBT card. They are automatically eligible to participate in this program and do not need to apply. As of March 2021, participating retailers include Walmart, Amazon, ALDI and BJ's Wholesale Club.

For more information on the online purchasing pilot, please refer to the Online Purchasing Pilot FAQs.