Strategic Partner Presentations
Children are more likely to face food insecurity than any other group in the United States.

The coronavirus pandemic has left millions of families without stable employment. More than 50 million people, including 17 million children, may experience food insecurity in 2020.

Source: Feeding America 2020
Critical Waivers

- **Emergency Allotments**: States may issue emergency supplements to SNAP households that normally receive less than the maximum benefit.

- **SNAP Online Purchasing**: Expanded SNAP online purchasing to support social distancing across nearly three-quarters of the states, covering 90% of SNAP households.

- **Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver**: Allowing parents/guardians to pick-up meals without children present and bring them home to their children.

- **Remote Benefit Issuance Waivers**: WIC agencies may issue benefits remotely so participants don’t have to pick up their WIC benefits in person.
Continuity of Food Distribution

• Food Distribution and Partnerships

• The network typically serves 9 million individuals each year in food support programs – includes panties, senior meals, after school, Meals on Wheels and other
  
  – Transitioned quickly to grab and go for pantry and congregate meal sites.
  
  – Impact on larger agency - staff pulled from other programs to support food distribution Immediate loss of volunteers.

  First 6 to 8 weeks serious lack of PPE - masks, gloves, etc.

  – Residential programs – staff delivering to individual apartments, hotel rooms, created “mini food pantries” in senior housing, added community distribution to those who couldn’t pick up meals (adult day care and senior centers), Meals on Wheels

  – Agencies started pop up distributions, used parish parking lots that were neighborhood based – rural outreach
Partnerships

Successful partnerships

• Locally started to see significant donations from restaurants – Some agencies used food budget to contract with restaurants – able to keep employees paid – prepared and delivered meals in senior housing. “Adopted” a senior housing building

• National – Church of Latter Day Saints – restaurant supply companies, Mission foods tortillas Dairy Cooperative - significant donations from farmers

• CCUSA food purchases – two week supply to over 80 agencies

• Trucking Costs – Flexport

• No Kids Hungry – agency grants for food purchasing

• Expanded SNAP Outreach and Enrollment – Walmart Foundation – 50 agencies – expanded social media, 1 800 numbers, virtual outreach - spread the word via community partnerships
Farmers to Families

Amazing quality of product
• CCUSA helped to link member agencies with vendors – many agencies participated either directly or via food bank

Challenges
• Lack of capacity – smaller agencies/rural communities – lack of refrigeration, loading docks, non responsive vendors, change of vendors
• Photo – Deming New Mexico
Farmers to Families
Catholic Charities – Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Alice, Texas
CONVOY OF HOPE
ADAPTING TO A PANDEMIC ENVIRONMENT
Monday, March 16, 2020

Beginning tomorrow, March 17th, until further notice...

- Work Remotely
- Events Cancelled
- Travel Cancelled
- Specifics Worked Out With Workgroup Lead
A link is added to COH website for ANYONE to request essentials.

US Disaster Team converts their warehouse to distribution center.

Disaster and Distribution Teams split the work of serving all incoming requests.
THOSE RELYING ON PRODUCT - FARMERS TO FAMILIES FOOD BOXES were a major boost to the quantity and variety of food we could offer to the many communities, agencies, churches, and households reaching out to us for food assistance.
COMMITMENTS TO EVENTS -

Major Events
• Extremely large crowds, multiple providers, 1000’s of recipients
• Cities have been planning for up to a year
• Event has been advertised to the public for weeks
COMMITMENTS TO EVENTS -

Medium Sized Events

- Lots of participant interaction
- Small group work
- Shared family or buffet style meals
- May involve lots of travel for COH staff
SUMMARY

Time only allowed for a brief highlight of these two functions, but this doesn’t do justice to all of the accommodations, negotiations, alterations, emergency planning, long hours, prayers and difficult conversations my COH colleagues continue to put into serving well during this pandemic.
Shine Hope

Steve Watson
Director
Buckner Humanitarian Aid
Buckner International
Farmers to Family’s – How it helped

- Relieved burden of providing extra food/more food without increased costs
- Provided nutritious food due to
  - Dairy
  - Fresh Produce which is usually limited
- Provided increased presence and food to the several Buckner program sights.
- Provided increased awareness of Covid precautions
  - Providing health and hygiene brochures with every box.
- Family perspective – kids out of school, parents out of work and provided extra food when needed most
Pivot/Change

Closed empowerment classes, volunteer programs, international shipping, non-essential product packing and distribution.

Reconfigured – entire indoor distribution model from a limited numbers of persons per week to entirely outdoor “no touch drive through model”,

- which to this point has protected Humanitarian Aid Staff from any work related Covid-19 cases.
Pivot/Change

Immediately developed Standard Operating Protocol for safe receiving, packing and distribution of product to clients.

Developed SOP’s were integrated within the whole of Buckner Children and Family Services to be the model for packing, and distribution events held throughout the state.

Moved from fully staffed Center for Humanitarian Aid to a rotating skeleton crew to limit number of contacts and potential exposure.
Recommendations

Fully utilize the networking capability of the faith-based community.

Consider the local church as a partner.

Build a distribution plan from the ground up.

a. Move from Grocers to hubs and then to community centers to get it close to individuals in need

b. Provide refrigerated trucks to communities for storage and distribution when needed.
8.3 Million

205 Million

$342 Million

51

Discussion
HUB GROWTH

150 Hub Locations
Starting May 15th, 2020

1,262 Hub Locations
Current Count
Wrap up and Closing