ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Reminder: The Foodbank will be closed July 4, 2018.
• Agencies are able to exclusively shop the MarketPlace, no order pick-up is required. Simply call to schedule an appointment!
• Network Partner Program mid-year review requests are due by July 16, 2018. To request a review, email Keith Freund at kfreund@acrfb.org.
• Operation Orange, a 24-hour volunteer event, is coming up on September 7 - 8, 2018! Keep an eye out for more information!

Farm Bill Update

Every five years, Congress renews the Farm Bill. This legislation is important to our hunger-relief network because it includes funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Foodbank has been active in meeting with legislators to share concerns about current versions of the Farm Bill in both the House and Senate. The Foodbank’s priorities for the Farm Bill are simple: maintain funding for SNAP, TEFAP, and CSFP. Food banks cannot make up the difference if cuts are made to these programs.

All network partners are encouraged to sign up for advocacy alerts from the Foodbank and take action by contacting representatives in Congress.

Joining the Foodbank Advocacy Network meets one of the criterion of the Engaged Level of the Network Partner Program.

Many network partners have already started to support advocacy efforts to protect food programs in the Farm Bill. Jim Rice of Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry joined food bank representatives from around the country in Washington D.C. to meet with legislators. Michele Smith of Good Samaritan Hunger Center shared her perspective with Representative Marcia Fudge during a visit to the Foodbank. Henrietta Lockhart of Akron Bible Church wrote a letter to the editor that was included in the Akron Beacon Journal. Thank you to our network partners for getting involved and advocating on behalf of the people we seek to help.

Questions about the Farm Bill? Contact Colleen Benson, cbenson@acrfb.org or Katie Carver Reed atkcarver@acrfb.org. To sign-up for advocacy alerts, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/advocate.
**Summit Kitchen Connect**

Summit Kitchen Connect is an exciting initiative to connect local food entrepreneurs with kitchen spaces in the greater Summit County community. Developed and managed by Summit Food Coalition, an organization fiscally sponsored by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, it provides a platform where kitchen owners can share information regarding their available kitchen space, and entrepreneurs can browse those listings and request introductions to the host kitchens.

Summit Food Coalition provides toolkits for both host kitchens and entrepreneurs outlining the basic information needed to embark on kitchen rental and launching a food business. The Coalition is also available to help throughout the process.

If you think this could be a good fit for your organization, feel free to contact Beth Knorr at bethk@summitfoodcoalition.org or visit summitfoodcoalition.org/sfc-kitchen-connect.

**Posting PantryTrak Flyer**

Effective July 1, 2018, all food pantries using PantryTrak must post the PantryTrak Notice for Clients at their intake location. This notice informs clients that they must review the income guidelines and verify their household size when signing the form in PantryTrak. In addition, it explains that clients must be able to view the computer screen, type in their initials and click the “I agree” button. If a client is unable to do this on their own, they may ask a volunteer at the program for assistance.

The PantryTrak operational guidelines for clients are mandated by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. Posting the PantryTrak Notice for Clients helps demonstrate compliance with the required guidelines.

Any food pantry switching to PantryTrak after July 1, 2018 will receive the PantryTrak Notice to Clients as part of their training materials.

Network partners may request copies of this notice by contacting Mary Ann Mills at 330.777.1062 or mmills@acrfb.org.

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**CHANGE COMING! TEFAP FORM WILL UPDATE IN JULY**

Each year, the Federal and State Eligibility to Take Food Home (TEFAP) form changes on July 1, 2018, coinciding with the state of Ohio’s fiscal year. For network partners using PantryTrak, the system will automatically update to the new form on July 1.

The new form is available in the Resources section of the Agency Zone. Please dispose of all blank 2017 forms. Your agency will need to file and store all forms currently being used, and clients will need to complete a new form to begin the new fiscal year. Please make note, that if a food pantry client uses a proxy, the proxy form needs to be updated each year as well. As with all Foodbank documentation, we require maintaining all files for at least five years for auditing purposes.

Questions? Contact Gary Green at 330.777.7575 or ggreen@acrfb.org.

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**FACEBOOK GROUP FOR NETWORK PARTNERS**

Feeding America recently created a Facebook group called Agencies Ending Hunger to support hunger-relief programs by connecting group members working to address the hunger needs in their communities. It’s a great place to ask for advice or assist one another with food distribution challenges. It’s likely that a group member has already dealt with a similar issue or could provide great ideas.

Join the group at facebook.com/groups/agenciesendinghunger.

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**UPDATE ACCOUNT INFORMATION**

Network partners should contact the Foodbank any time a change has been made to their hunger-relief program. Has a new staff member or volunteer joined the team? Have the days and/or times of distribution changed? If so, contact the Foodbank to ensure all information about your account is up to date.

As a reminder:

- Only individuals listed on the account and given proper permission can order and/or pick up.
- All Foodbank accounts must have at least one person who has attended orientation.
- Accurate days and times of distribution are important, as the Foodbank keeps a public directory of food programs on our website.

To update account information, call 330.535.6900 and ask for a member of the Network Partners and Programs department.