

## Food bank sets coronavirus food assistance support in motion

June 3, 2020



The Redwood Empire Food Bank is receiving produce, dairy and meat boxes as part of the USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) where the USDA is purchasing products from farmers and employing distributors to get the food to nonprofit organizations offering food assistance.

“Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we have the funds to transport and distribute this bounty of food,” said David Goodman, Redwood Empire Food Bank’s CEO.

The current pandemic has increased the need for food in our community by 200%, bringing many new participants to the Redwood Empire Food Bank. As part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, Secretary Perdue announced on April 17 that the USDA is exercising authority under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

By partnering with regional and local distributors, whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other foodservice entities, the USDA has purchased \$3 billion of fresh produce, dairy and meat to distribute to those in need.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is one of the recipients of this bounty and will continue to receive the CFAP food boxes over the next six weeks.

“We want the community to know that we have food, and we are here to help,” said Goodman.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing hunger, has been impacted through unemployment, reduced wage, lack of childcare, or any other reason you may not be able to afford to eat, please call the Redwood Empire Food Bank at 707-523-7900, go to [refb.org](http://refb.org) or go to [getfood.refb.org](http://getfood.refb.org) to locate food distribution sites near you.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is the largest hunger-relief organization serving north coastal California from Sonoma County to the Oregon border.

Since 1987, the Redwood Empire Food Bank has provided food and nourishment to those facing hunger — currently serving 82,000 children, families and seniors in Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Lake counties.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank collaborates with local and regional partners to obtain and distribute the equivalent of more than 40,000 meals every day.

Through more than 200 of its own direct service distributions and partnerships with 170 other hunger-relief organizations, Redwood Empire Food Bank forms a network of over 450 weekly and monthly distribution sites serving all residents facing food insecurity.