

Emergency Food Response Update

January 12, 2021 @ 9am

Hosted by: Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy

Present (21 organizations)

- Courtney Strutt - TBAFS
- Karen Kerk - TBAFS
- Rachel Globensky - LU
- Albert Brule – United Way
- Alexandra Calderon – TBCF
- Brendan Carlin – RFDA
- Chantal Petit – John Howard
- Crystal Simeoni – TBDSSAB Housing
- Dan Hobbs – Red Cross
- Gwen O'Reilly – GFB/NOWC
- Ivan Ho – TBDHU
- Jay Arjune – CMHA
- Jess McLaughlin - IFC
- Kaitlin Prezio – Youth Inclusion
- Kim McGibbon – Roots to Harvest
- LeeAnn – City of Thunder Bay
- Marilyn Junilla – Shkoday
- Michael Hull - Shkoday
- Michael Quibell – Dew Drop Inn
- Michelle McGuire – ONWA
- Nathan Pyhtila – John Howard
- Paul Capon – Matawa
- Phoenix Schweitz – Elevate NWO
- Sam Galati – Shelter House
- Sarah Kaukinen – OAHs

Update Overview

- » Need & Offers
- » Organization Updates
- » Open Discussion
- » Next Meeting & Information Sharing

Next Meeting is TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2nd @ 9:00am

See calendar link for Zoom address.

Updates, Needs, & Offers

- Needs
 - Funding for some of the organizations offering additional food supports that are still being relied on by community members starts to run out in February/March of 2021
 - GFB – The Moose Hall is close to shutting down due to lack of funds, which means the Good Food Box will need a new location to pack their boxes.
- Offers
 - Funding – [Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative \(CHPI\) 2021 Food Security Fund \(DSSAB\)](#)
 - The fund aims to provide financial support to food security initiatives that help address and prevent homelessness in the district of Thunder Bay

- Deadline is Jan. 31, 2021; application info in link.
- Funding – [CHPI Emergency Pandemic Fund](#) (DSSAB)
 - Aims to provide financial support to organizations that are experiencing increased or new costs in supporting the homeless or preventing homelessness due to COVID.
 - Funding to be used by March 31, 2021; application in link
- Translation of Food Support material – Roots to Harvest
 - Contact Kim kim@rootstoharvest.org
- Printed Food Support pamphlets – TBAFS & TBDHU
 - Contact Karen foodstrategy@ecosuperior.org

Organization Updates

- RFDA
 - Most food banks (aside from some of the smaller ones) are running again and continue to work with 211 for registration; for a full list of food banks, see the primary food supports doc on the TBAFS website.
 - Offering a delivery program within the City to support people who need help getting food (seniors, those with mobility issues, those needing to isolate due to COVID, emergency situations) that can be accessed by calling 211. Once registered, they will get food the next day; if emergency usually can get it out the same day.
 - Received funding from the government that has allowed them to hire a delivery driver to help provide this service.
- Roots to Harvest (R2H)
 - R2H has the capacity to continue supporting several organizations to offer food supports for specific needs including:
 - Senior hampers w/ DDI on Wednesdays from 12:30 – 1:30
 - Elder hampers w/ TBIFC once a month
 - Ready to eat food packages to Elizabeth Fry once a month.
 - Arabic diet appropriate hampers distributed directly to families via word of mouth and aligning that in off weeks from the Thunder Bay Food Bank.
 - Community Food Market in Limbrick, Tuesdays from 1 – 4pm
 - Supporting Red Cross' Online Learner School Nutrition Bags, weekly
 - Contact Kim for more information – kim@rootstoharvest.org
- Red Cross
 - Online Learner Student Nutrition Bags are running each week. 100 bags a week. Things are fluid as we find the best way to reach online learners.
 - Delivery locations for this Thursday is at Our Lady of Loretto Church, Oliver Road Community Centre, Evergreen community hub, and St Agnes church from 3-4:30

- Student nutrition is still being offered directly in schools; these bags for students who aren't physically attending school but are still in need of food support.
- Dew Drop Inn
 - Offering regular daily meals to go (cold lunch 9:00 – 3:30pm & hot meal 12:30 – 3:30) and seniors hampers once a week on Wednesday.
 - DDI had a record breaking year in 2020, offering 10,565 meals, which was an increase of 20,000 from 2019 and 30,000 from 2018.
 - DDI has received additional emergency funding that covered their costs in 2020 and setting them up for the beginning of 2021.
- Elevate NWO
 - Continuing to run a food bank on delivery model of approximately 80 hampers every Wednesday.
 - Agency is closed to members until further direction. On clinic days, only those with appointments are allowed in.
 - Big thanks to R2H for their support with Xmas hampers; delivered 100 hampers that included baked goods from R2H.
 - RFDA hamper orders are received biweekly, but there is a need for dairy, produce, and protein.
 - Funding will be exhausted as of the end of February.
- Good Food Box (Northwest Ontario Women's Centre)
 - GFB will be running this month.
 - Have stopped offering free boxes, back to subsidized model.
 - Deliveries will be happening over two days (Jan. 20, 21) including drop offs to orgs that are able to pack and distribute their own boxes.
 - Constantly problem solving and making decisions shifting situations, including restrictions on numbers of volunteers, space for packing, closed host sites, how to get money from people to buy and receive boxes when sites aren't open.
- Matawa First Nations Management
 - Two of their communities have had COVID outbreaks, one in lockdown
 - Will be sending food hampers to Aroland, that is a concern
- TBDHU
 - The Health Unit started offering a service to support people who need to isolate at home to access food over the holidays; not spreading this widely as they have limited capacity to keep this up.
 - Assured organization reps on the call that all of these organizations are essential services and doesn't see that any of these programs would be limited or shut down in any way in the future, if this assurance helps for future planning. TBDHU is happy to work with organizations to make sure services continue.

- CEFRRP
 - We will be sending out a follow up survey to a number of organizations who contributed to our initial survey to gather more concrete data on funding and stats for food supports by the end of this week.
 - For questions or more information, contact Courtney courtney@collectivefuture.ca

Open Discussion

- Funding running out for additional food supports
 - DDI and GFB both mentioned that they have seen an increase in their regular costs for food supports due to the need to make adjustments to their models in order to ensure that food support is safe during a pandemic (ie. supply take out containers (DDI) and cardboard and packing materials (GFB)).
 - These are examples of regular parts of our food security infrastructure that are experiencing a shortfall in funds to provide a regularly relied upon service due to changes from COVID.
 - Seems that emergency funds that have been used to fill these gaps are coming to a close in February or March of 2021.
 - Any information that can be shared about where to access additional gap funds would be appreciated!
- Translation of food support materials
 - R2H has received a grant to allow them to support the translation of food support material into other languages needed by newcomer populations, as it is difficult for people to navigate these systems when everything is offered in English.
 - They are wondering if any other organizations are seeing a need for translated materials and offering support with that.
 - GFB and Matawa offered suggestions for sharing information and other places to accessed translated materials.

Next Meeting & Information Sharing

- Information Sharing of Food Access points & Organization Updates
 - To find the list of primary (food banks, free meals) and secondary (community orgs) food supports, check the TBAFS website under [Emergency Food Coordination](#).
 - These documents will be updated after every Emergency Food Response table meeting, or as important updates are shared with us.
 - If you have updates or corrections, please feel free to email us!
 - We are working on getting the primary food support pamphlet finished this week and the Health Unit has offered to have some printed.
 - If you would like printed copies, let us know (Request for 168 by R2H)

- Meeting Frequency
 - A group poll determined that we will shift to meeting every 3 weeks.
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 2 @ 9am; we will aim to have a number of funders ready to give an update on the funding climate in 2021.