

# Press Release

## For Immediate Release

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## Feeding the Gulf Coast Responds to Increased Needs During COVID-19

**(March 16, 2020)** – Feeding the Gulf Coast is prepared to serve the Central Gulf Coast as concerns around COVID-19 (Coronavirus) continue to increase. The food bank remains committed to its mission of ensuring the needs of communities are met.

“Feeding the Gulf Coast is no stranger to working through times of crisis to assist the most vulnerable in our community” says Dan Emery, newly appointed President and CEO for Feeding the Gulf Coast. “Last year the food bank served the community during the partial Government shutdown. During times like these we see an increased need among people who do not typically face hunger. The threat of Coronavirus adds even more pressure to the already strained finances of those we serve and so many more. The food bank remains a critical lifeline to anyone who is struggling with hunger, especially during an unforeseen crisis.

As families are faced with an increased need for food due to school closures, inability to work, or facing self-quarantine requirements, the "Find Help" feature available at [www.feedingthegulfcoast.org](http://www.feedingthegulfcoast.org), is the best source of information for families and individuals seeking assistance. Individuals can also call (888) 704-FOOD. With schools closing over the next few weeks, the food bank is working with the local school systems and other partners to identify distribution sites for our child nutrition meals beginning Thursday, March 19. Those sites will serve grab and go meals and will be listed on our website.

Feeding the Gulf Coast is actively working to develop solutions to meet the anticipated increase in need in our service area by developing strategies for the distribution of emergency food boxes for those affected by school closures, quarantines and the growing economic impact of this crisis. Community support is always needed, especially during these uncertain times. Now more than ever, healthy volunteers and donations are critical. Individuals looking to donate or volunteer can do so by visiting [www.feedingthegulfcoast.org](http://www.feedingthegulfcoast.org).

During this time of uncertainty and crisis, Feeding the Gulf Coast remains dedicated to serving the community. Working with community partners, the food bank will continue to be an organization of hope and support for families facing hunger.

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For interviews or images, please contact Amanda Young, Marketing & Communications Manager  
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### **About Feeding the Gulf Coast**

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning the Florida panhandle, south Alabama, and south Mississippi. In 2019, the food bank distributed over 24 million meals to over 400 church pantries, soup kitchens, and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple hunger-relief and nutrition programs, including Summer Meals, Afterschool Meal, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Mobile Pantry and Produce Drop Distributions and Nutrition Education. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way member agency and a member of Feeding America. For more information, visit [www.feedingthegulfcoast.org](http://www.feedingthegulfcoast.org).

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