

Agency Scoop, Arkansas Foodbank Member Newsletter, is your inside scoop for exclusive dates, information and stories from Arkansas Foodbank members. Distributed monthly, this is our primary contact to distribute information that applies specifically to our members.

2021 CHANGES - MONTHLY REPORTS



Effective January 2021, no delivery fees will be assessed to agencies orders.

NEW: Beginning in 2021, ***the monthly reports will be due on the 1st of each month.*** This is a

change from the report being due on the 15th of each month. You are required to submit a report every month whether you shop or not.

Remember, we submit reports a month behind, so for example, the January 2021 clients served numbers will be reported due on February 1st 2021. We ask for your reports to be submitted on time.

For the first monthly report in January 2021, both individuals and households are NEW CLIENTS. You should have 0 returning clients and 0 returning households.

When reporting the age breakdown remember that it should EQUAL the total individuals served. Due to COVID19 safety protocols there is no requirement to report the age breakdown but you will have to enter 0 in each age group.

All USDA TEFAP agencies will receive a new link for the 2021 reports. This report is still due on the 5th of each month.

Please feel free to contact us at 501-565-8121 if you have questions.

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Keep up the great work – and remember to send us your pantry/ agency stories.

You can email Shamim at:
sokolloh@arkansasfoodbank.org



NEW STAFF: FOOD DONATIONS COORDINATOR

In December 2020, Brad Sweeney joined the staff of the Arkansas Foodbank as Food Donations Coordinator. In this role, he is responsible for developing and cultivating food donors to realize an increase of grocery rescue for the Arkansas Foodbank and our agencies. He is driven to help others and spends free time volunteering with several organizations, including time in the past with the Arkansas Foodbank.



Brad brings with him 30 years of experience in the food business, most recently with Unilever where he was responsible for major brands like Hellmann's, Lipton, and Knorr. He believes passionately in our mission and looks forward to working alongside all of you in the fight against hunger. Brad and his wife Allison have been married for 24 years and enjoy traveling and experiencing the different cultures of the places they visit.

For our agency's that participate in the Retail Program, he is the new contact and can be reached at bsweeney@arkansasfoodbank.org or 501-569-4321.

COVID19 Vaccine & Your Agency

As you may know, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) began receiving shipments of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna vaccine in mid-December 2020. To better determine the process for vaccine dissemination, ADH established three priority groups: Phase 1-A, 1-B, and 1-C. We are happy to share that Food Pantry Essential Workers are in Group 1-B to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in February—March 2021.



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COVID19 Vaccine & Your Agency

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Priority Group 1-B vaccine dissemination kicked off on Monday, January 18th. Those who opt to receive the vaccine will likely receive the vaccination at a local pharmacy. You will need to provide the pharmacy a letter from your church, community organization or 501c3 to serve as verification of your affiliation to your respective food pantry. At this time, the vaccines will only be given to adults 16 years of age and older. For more information about these and other COVID-19 vaccines and protocols, go to <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-vaccination-plan>.

Should you have any further questions, please read the materials on the Healthy Arkansas website listed above or speak with your physician about the best steps to take regarding the vaccine.

HEALTH: COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING & PREVENTION PROGRAM VIA UAMS

Colorectal cancer is cancer that occurs in the colon or rectum. Sometimes it is called colon cancer. The colon is the large intestine or large bowel. The rectum is the passageway that connects the colon to the anus. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States, but it doesn't have to be. If you are 45 or older, getting a colorectal cancer screening test could save your life.

The UAMS Colorectal Cancer Screening and Prevention Program is a state wide screening program that offers colorectal cancer screenings for Arkansans. The program collaborates with statewide primary care physicians and gastroenterologists to increase screenings and decrease the number of avoidable deaths from colorectal cancer.

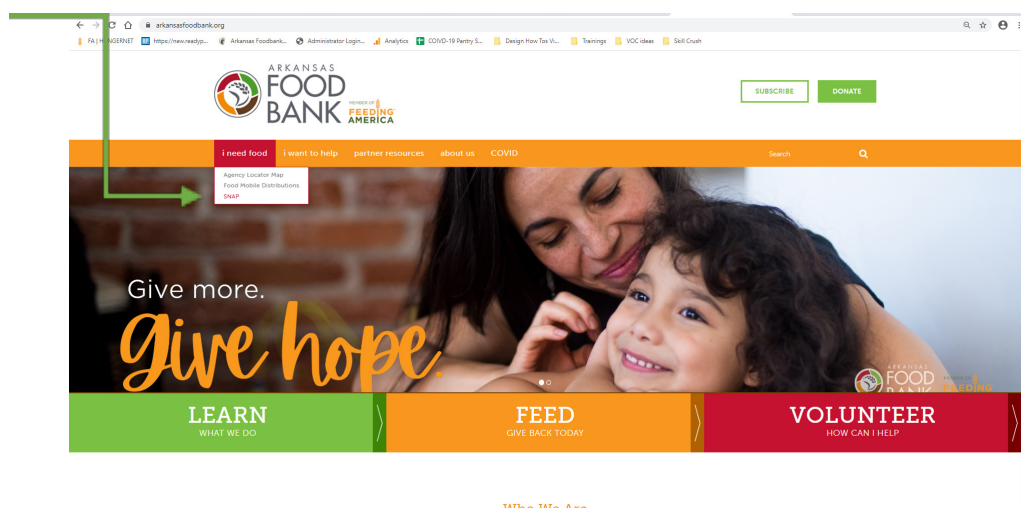
The program's purpose is to reduce the physical and economic burden of colorectal cancer by increasing early detection and to meet the goal of screening 80% of the target population by 2020. The target population for the program are people age 45 and above, those who are at high risk for colorectal cancer (family history, inflammatory bowel disease), and the uninsured or underinsured. The program provides screenings including the Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT) annually and colonoscopies for participants who are high-risk and for those with a positive FIT result. Participants found to have cancer are navigated through the UAMS system for additional evaluation and treatment. Ronda Henry-Tillman, MD, FACS serves as the Program Director. To learn more about the colorectal cancer screening and prevention program, you may contact Dr. Valandra Oliver at 501-526-7101 or vloliver@uams.edu.

THE SNAP HELP CENTER – HELPS PEOPLE REGISTER FOR SNAP ONLINE

Have your pantry clients expressed a need for help with filling out SNAP applications? The SNAP Help Center can help. The SNAP Help Center walks people through a SNAP application over the phone. Then we submit their SNAP application to their county DHS office.

To request help, go to arkansasfoodbank.org, select **I need food > Snap>click Apply Here**. Fill out the request for assistance and someone from the SNAP Help Center will call to offer assistance. Also, reach us at 501-569-4311 or snap@arkansasfoodbank.org.

From the website, arkansasfoodbank.org, click the “I need Food” tab then select SNAP.



On the SNAP page scroll down to the red button “Apply Here!” and click.

SNAP

COVID UPDATES

- DHS SNAP COVID application – As of March 2020, this application is being used. It simplifies the SNAP application process by accepting verbal consent in place of a signature due to the state of emergency.
- Abled-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) – As of April 2020, SNAP time limits are temporarily suspended during the state of emergency. No one will be required to work 20 hours a week (80 hours a month) to keep receiving SNAP.
- Maximum Allotment – As of March 2020, those receiving SNAP will receive the maximum benefit allotment for their household.

What is SNAP?

SNAP formally known as Food Stamps provides benefits to supplement a family's food budget for eligible families so they can have access to purchase healthy foods. This program is administered in Arkansas by the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

How does SNAP work?

SNAP eligibility is based on a family's monthly income using the SNAP Income Guidelines.

Less than 60% Non-Disabled Household		60% and/or Disabled Household	
# of People In my Home	Monthly Income	# of People In my Home	Monthly Income
1	\$1,263	1	\$1,064
2	\$1,684	2	\$1,427
3	\$2,105	3	\$1,789
4	\$2,526	4	\$2,151
5	\$2,947	5	\$2,513

Benefits are distributed onto the recipient's EBT card (it resembles a debit card). Benefits can be used to purchase food items ONLY at grocery stores, convenience stores, farmer's markets, co-op food programs. Now, EBT cards can be used to purchase food (eligible food items) online at Wal-Mart and Amazon. Also, these funds will roll over from month-to-month.

Need help applying? We can help!

Get started now. [Click here](#) or the button below and someone from our SNAP Help Center will contact you within a week to help you complete your SNAP application.

Apply Here!

Once you have completed your form simply hit submit.

NUTRITION: HEALTHY PANTRY INITIATIVE



January kicks off the launch of the Healthy Pantry Initiative (HPI) pilot. Various agencies have committed to participating in the yearlong pilot to implement practical, client-centered strategies for a health-focused environment in all types of food distribution sites. HPI combines the best practices of healthy pantry work grounded in trauma-informed principles and processes that promote a client and community-centered distribution. Agencies that complete the HPI will earn Silver or Gold certification for distributions that demonstrate evidence of implementation across the six focus areas.

Kimberly Buchberger with Hope's Pantry and Closet in Cabot said that she decided to participate in the Healthy Pantry Initiative to learn how to best meet the needs of the clients she serves so that "Families can come, shop and pick their own food." Kimberly says her vision of Hope's Pantry and Closet is "To give families back their dignity and so there's no shame. We want to become their friends, we love them and we encourage them. We want them feel a part of society".

If you are interested in learning more about the Healthy Pantry Initiative, contact Lauren Allbritton, RD at 501-569-4327 or lallbritton@arkansasfoodbank.org



Green Split Peas Pie

by Tammy Rounsavall



We know that clients might not always know what to do with all that green split peas you have in abundance. Feel free to share this recipe.

Ingredients

16oz. peas
1 can of cream
1 Tablespoon and 1 half Teaspoon of cinnamon
1 Teaspoon cloves
1 Tablespoon of nutmeg
1 Teaspoon of ginger
1.5 cups of sugar
1 half Teaspoon of salt
1 Tablespoon of flour

How to prepare

Cook green peas until mush. Let them sit to be dry, no juice. Add all together and bake like a Pumpkin Pie.

FREE ITEMS FOR YOUR AGENCY

Good news, we have some valuable non-food items available to you at no cost. Be sure to look for them on the shopping list if these would be beneficial for your clients.

- LED Light Bulbs – limit of 10 cases per agency, per order
Item number D01-048
- Advanced Power Strips – limit of 2 cases per agency, per order
Item number D01-052
- Disposable Face Masks – limit of 10 box per agency, per order
Item number D01-053

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