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Media event: Due to the expected high volume of participants, and limited space at each site, members of the media are invited to a pre-event interview on **Friday, May 15 from 11:30AM-12:00PM at the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester, 1026 E Center St.** Mayor Kim Norton will be available for interviews, along with a volunteer from Channel One Regional Food Bank. Photos and B-roll from the actual event will also be shared with interested media. **To RSVP for the Media Event and sign up for photo/B-roll access, please email Karen Lemke at klemke@rplmn.org.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Second round of food boxes offered for Rochester individuals, families

May 7, 2020 – ROCHESTER, MINN. – As economic hardships take hold amid the COVID-19 outbreak, community organizations are once again offering expanded access to free food.

On Friday, May 15, the City of Rochester, Channel One Regional Food Bank, Cradle 2 Career, and Family Service Rochester will all team up for a one-day Food Box Distribution event.

Community Development Director Cindy Steinhauser says the purpose of the event is two-fold. “We want people to have the access they need to food, but we also want to provide individuals with information about ongoing food support. We know the financial impacts of COVID-19 continue, and we want to make sure families know there are resources available.”

Demand for services continues to grow in communities across the U.S., as an unprecedented number of individuals and families are struggling. Virginia Merritt, Executive Director of the Channel One Regional Food Bank says local resources are currently meeting that demand. “Our food bank and local food shelves are able to provide help to people who need it. While demand is high, we have the resources to make sure people aren’t going hungry.”

On Friday, May 15, from 12:30-1:30 PM, local families can pick up free, thirty-pound boxes of food at four different locations in Rochester, including:

- Empowerment Center
- Boys and Girls Club of Rochester
- Cook Park
- Bear Creek Park

Food boxes include approximately enough non-perishable food to feed a family of four for a week. In addition to the food boxes, frozen meat, eggs, and fresh produce will also be available.

In order to ensure the safety of volunteers and residents, those picking up food will need to follow social distancing protocols at the drive-thru events.

- Vehicles will pull up to the designated drive through location
- Drivers **MUST** remain in their vehicle

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC



CITY INFORMATION LINE
507-328-2822
Daily 9 a.m. — 9 p.m.

ROCHESTERMN.GOV/COVID19

LOCAL ACTIVATIONS

City of Rochester
Emergency Operations Plan

Joint Information Center (JIC)

City of Rochester Emergency
Operations Center (EOC)

EOC STRATEGY

Ensure Community Lifelines

EOC OBJECTIVES

Continuity of Operations
Timely Community and
Teammate Communication
Economic Stability
Community Stability
Healthcare System Support

Lifelines enable the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and are essential to human health and safety or economic security.

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Stay at Home
Executive Order 20-20
Effective March 27 — April 10

City of Rochester
Declaration of Local Emergency
Issued March 17, 2020

Olmsted County
Public Health Emergency
Issued March 17, 2020

Minnesota Peacetime State of
Emergency EM-3453
Issued March 13, 2020

National Emergency
Novel Coronavirus Outbreak
Issued March 13, 2020

- Drivers will open their trunk remotely and the box will be placed in the trunk. If placing the box in the trunk is not an option, the box will be placed in the back seat of the vehicle

Food Boxes are available to any local family in need, with a limit of one box per family.

For more information about food resources in the community, visit the Channel One Website at <https://www.helpingfeedpeople.org/>.

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