



For Immediate Release

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**Roadrunner Food Bank Expands Drive Through Food Distributions  
Valencia County Residents Experiencing Food Needs Invited to Attend  
Volunteers Needed to Help at Drive Through Mobile Distributions**

**Albuquerque, NM (April 7, 2020)** – With each passing day, Coronavirus and COVID-19 continues to impact New Mexicans and brings so many one step closer to hunger and poverty. Unemployment is skyrocketing as restaurants close and businesses shutter, leaving many countless workers facing layoffs, furloughs and missed paychecks. Food insecure families are additionally burdened as they don't have the financial means to buy a two-week supply of food in accordance with stay at home measures. It's meant that hunger relief organizations like Roadrunner Food Bank are seeing food assistance needs climb in our state and sharply.

To account for the increased demand while ensuring social distancing, staff of the food bank have had to completely account for social distancing as part of how food is distributed. What came about is now known as Mobile Drive Through Distributions. The first of this modified style of distribution started the last week of March in three locations in Albuquerque. It is now being expanded to Valencia County. From start to finish, clients never leave their car. Rows of cars pull in to register, provide some basic information, and from there, proceed to an area where food boxes are placed in their trunk or backseat. Every household receives 50-60 pounds of food. In its first week more than a thousand households visited these contactless food distributions. **Income limits to do apply. See chart at the end of this document.**

The first Valencia County Mobile Drive Through Distribution will happen on **Thursday, April 16 from 8 am to 10 am at the Starlight Cinema Parking Lot located at 2226 Sun Ranch Village Rd.** *The distributions will take place every other week on the first and third Thursday of each month until further notice.* This upcoming distribution is important for the county at this time, as some partner sites were forced to close because of the lack of volunteers and/or safety concerns about the virus.

Community members who attend the distribution must live in Valencia County. Those invited to receive food include anyone who doesn't have enough or consistent access to food, people experiencing a layoff, reduced hours at their job, reduced income, seniors living on fixed incomes, etc. Each distribution will serve a set number of households on a first come, first serve basis.

Forty volunteers are also needed at the distribution on **April 16 from 7 am to noon.** Volunteers must register online and in advance at [www.rrfb.org/cervis](http://www.rrfb.org/cervis). All volunteer projects have been set up with social distancing taken into account. Volunteers who have been ill in the last fourteen days or around anyone who has been ill in the past 14 days are encouraged to volunteer at a later date once they are completely well. Volunteers ages 8 and up are encouraged to volunteer. All minors must be accompanied by an adult. All volunteers are required to complete a health screening questionnaire, bring it to the distribution or complete it at the distribution and provide it to staff onsite.

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Mag Strittmatter, president and CEO of Roadrunner Food Bank said, "As essential businesses, food banks and our partner hunger relief organizations around the state really need the support of our communities right now. The impact of Coronavirus and COVID-19 has meant fewer volunteers, less donated food and increased need as new faces visit food distribution lines across the state. With skyrocketing unemployment, families are really being hit hard right now with the unknown factor of when or if their jobs will return. If you are healthy, please volunteer at a hunger relief organization near you. If you have the ability to donate funds or food, please consider giving as soon as possible."

Even though many partner food pantries that receive food from Roadrunner Food Bank are continuing to operate, some have been forced to close during this pandemic. To find a Roadrunner affiliated food distribution in any New Mexico community, please visit [www.rafb.org/find-food](http://www.rafb.org/find-food). Scroll down the page and enter your zip code in the Address/Zip code field. Hit the orange "Find Locations" button and locations will display under the map. **It is important to contact each site before visiting as additional restrictions may be in place due to Coronavirus and COVID-19.** The information on this website MAY change daily to address reduction of hours, closures, re-openings and changes in distribution methods.

### More Ways to Get Involved

Food banks and hunger relief organizations across the state are continuing to ask for support in the form of volunteers, monetary donations and food donations.

**To volunteer with Roadrunner Food Bank:** All volunteer projects have been set up with social distancing taken into account. In addition to volunteer needs at the drive through mobile food pantry distributions, volunteers are also needed at the food bank's warehouse in Albuquerque. For more information about volunteer opportunities, visit [www.rafb.org/volunteer](http://www.rafb.org/volunteer) or call 505.349.8841 during business hours. Volunteers must register in advance and be in good health. Any person who is experiencing any symptoms or illness or been around someone who has been ill, will be asked to reschedule their volunteer opportunity at a later date and time.

**To donate funds:** The easiest way is to give online at [www.rafb.org](http://www.rafb.org). Checks or money orders may be mailed to 5840 Office Blvd NE.

New Mexico is ranked as one of the hungriest and most poverty-stricken states in the nation. Roadrunner® Food Bank, a Feeding America member, is the largest non-profit dedicated to ending hunger in New Mexico and operates locations in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Last year, the Food Bank distributed 34 million pounds of food through its own programs, a statewide network of partner agencies, and regional food banks helping 70,000 children, seniors, families and adults weekly. The Food Bank also rescued more than 20 million pounds of food last year keeping food out of landfills.

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TEFAP Gross Income Limits								
Household income cannot exceed amount based on number of family members								
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Total Monthly Income	\$1,926	\$2,607	\$3,269	\$3,970	\$4,652	\$5,333	\$6,015	\$6,696