



WE ARE THE FOOD BANK Partner Agency Newsletter

August 2024



From the CPO

Dear Partner Agencies,



Our state association, the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB), has been hosting informational series sessions on client intake software. Our team has actively participated in these sessions to explore potential software platforms that can support both the food bank and our partner agencies in digitalizing the intake process and providing enhanced services. We remain fully committed to this initiative and are excited about the support from our state association in guiding all food banks toward digital integration.

Our timeline has been adjusted, and we anticipate completing the informational sessions by August. Subsequently, we will select a software company capable of offering intake processing, case management, and user-friendly interfaces. Following this selection, we plan to conduct individualized demonstrations with the chosen company to address specific questions and ensure alignment with our program department's objectives. By September or October, we aim to initiate a beta testing phase, with plans to fully implement the software in February or March.

We appreciate your patience as we navigate this process and recognize the collective enthusiasm for advancing digital intake capabilities. Rest assured, we are diligently selecting a software solution that will effectively capture essential data and streamline case management tasks. As always, we encourage you to join our office hours for further information, questions, or concerns.

Josué Barajas, Chief Programs Officer

Agency Network Update

Quarterly Partner Agency Meetings

We are looking forward to the first Partner Agency Meeting of the new fiscal year on **Monday, September 16**. It's always a great opportunity to share food bank updates and best practices, as well as touch base in person or virtually with our dedicated neighbors and peers. As a reminder, we encourage each of our partner agencies to send a representative to attend at least two of the four quarterly meetings annually. Our Agency Network Team will be reaching out this month with time and location information.

Office Hours

If our network agency representatives have any questions or concerns, our next office hours will be Friday, August 23, 2 - 3 p.m.

[Join the meeting here](#) | Meeting ID: 843 8834 9741

Agency Participation Numbers

June 2024			
County Zone	Estimated Unduplicated Households	Estimated Unduplicated Individuals	% Change from March '24
North County	9,950	19,683	-15.56%
South County	5,378	18,301	-15.18%
San Lorenzo Valley	2,888	5,911	-26.35%
Out of County	728	1,598	-19.25%
Total	18,944	45,493	-17.12%

*40 of 48 (83%) partner agencies reporting as of 7/29/24
Thank you!

Network Action Spotlight: ShopSmart Update

Reminder: ShopSmart has been updated to 80/20 - agencies pay 80%, The Food Bank pays 20%. All ShopSmart items will have an "SS" before the item number. We are excited that our sourcing team is working to offer eggs and tortillas as soon as possible and will be purchasing these items locally. Below is a breakdown of estimated agency costs for these items. **Please note, all prices are subject to market fluctuations, prices will vary.**

Approximate Agency Cost

Eggs (15 dozen/case): 1 case = \$50, 3 cases = \$150, 10 cases = \$500, 20 cases = \$1000

Tortillas (12-3 dozen bags/case): 1 case = \$20, 3 cases = \$60, 10 cases = \$200, 20 cases = \$400

The Food Bank is sourcing frozen chicken and potentially another frozen protein in the next few weeks that will be part of the ShopSmart program, and possibly expanding further to include fresh milk.

Standard Commodity now refers to the six shelf stable items we provide to agencies at no cost; tomato sauce, no salt added, pinto beans, peanut butter, shelf-stable milk, and long-grain white rice. All Standard Commodities will have "SC" before the item number on the menu. Reminder: all USDA products are free of charge.

The Food Bank is excited to have a new relationship with FedEx whose donation items will be seen on our online menu listed as "salvage," plus a general descriptor, such as "cereal" or "pet food." Keep an eye out for these ever-changing items. All salvage is considered bulk and ordered by the pound.

Save the Dates

Please add the events below to your calendars. We kindly request that agencies update us regarding changes to, or cancellations of, their distributions.

Saturday, August 3

*Second Harvest Food Bank Fundraiser:
Party in the Parking Lot at Second Harvest!*
4 – 7 p.m.

800 Ohlone Parkway, Watsonville
*Live Music featuring The Joint Chiefs,
Food Trucks, and Games!*

Tickets available at:

thefoodbank.org/partyintheparkinglot/



Friday, August 23

Agency Network Team Office Hours
2 – 3 p.m.

[Use this link to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 843 8834 9741

Monday, September 16

Partner Agency Meeting
Time and Location TBA

Community Spotlight

Carol, a resident of Bay Avenue Senior Apartments and a pantry volunteer.

Carol has lived in Bay Avenue Senior Apartments for 20 years. She is a native Californian and is retired from the insurance industry. Carol was happy to get an apartment at Bay Avenue and enjoys spending her time volunteering where she lives. She likes to use the food pantry to achieve positivity in her life and help others. "It's always a pleasure to see new faces and know that we are helping them."



Do you also take food? "Yes. The shelf milk is very helpful. It's really nice to have tuna and peanut butter when I'm running low and it's the end of the month."

800 Ohlone Parkway, Watsonville, California 95076

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