



# **Mission in the midst of COVID-19**

**Food Security Zoom Call**

**May 4, 2020**

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# Church Food Ministry Ideas

- Create a Feeding Ministry Team
  - Raise funds to support the feeding ministry
  - Recruit volunteers to receive requests, provide food/gift cards, and deliver the food
- Launch or expand weekend backpack feeding program to feed children throughout the week.
- Turn feeding ministries/programs into meals to go



# Church Food Ministry Ideas

- Transform your food pantry to grab and go from the curb or home delivery
- Donate to local food pantries (be sure you are donating items they request)
  - GNJ is creating a list of food pantries to be shared soon.
  - Food pantry Locator:
    - FoodPantries.org: <https://www.foodpantries.org/>
    - Food Bank of South Jersey: <https://foodbanksj.org/zip-code-locator/>
    - Fulfill Food Bank: <https://fulfillnj.org/get-help/locate-a-pantry/>
    - Community Food Bank of New Jersey: <https://cfbnj.org/findfood/>



# Host a Virtual Food Drive

- [Host a virtual food drive](#) for the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. Virtual Food Drives allows CFBNJ to serve more clients, more efficiently. It's fast, easy and fun too! [Learn more about virtual food drives here.](#)
- Host a virtual food drive for the [Food Bank of South Jersey.](#)
- Support local organizations by hosting an online drive for a charity of your choice via [yougivegoods.com](https://yougivegoods.com). You can host a virtual drive to support a wide variety of organizations, from those that distribute food to those that support homeless shelters or disaster relief efforts. They have an A+ Better Business Bureau rating. [Learn more here.](#)



# Support Local Food Banks

## ***Give Funds***

- Community Food Bank of New Jersey
- Fulfill Food Bank
- Food Bank of South Jersey

## ***Donate Food*** *(See their websites for needed items and additional instructions)*

- Community Food Bank of New Jersey is currently accepting food donations at their Egg Harbor Township location, but **NOT** their Hillside location.
- Fulfill Food Bank is accepting [food donations listed here](#).
  - They are also accepting [hygiene items](#).



# Food Pantries - Best Practices

## Food Pantry Best Practices

These guidelines are for the safety of staff, volunteers and clients

[Guidelines for Food Pantries \(updated March 26, 2020\)](#)

*If you are unable to abide by these best practices due to the size of your food pantry or other reasons, consider merging with a larger food pantry or donating your food to a local food bank until the spread of COVID 19 is no longer a concern.*



# Food Pantries - Volunteers

## Volunteers

Anyone requiring more volunteers should register at the NJVOAD website:

<http://www.njvoad.org/member-portal/volunteer-request-form/>

If you are looking to volunteer, register here:

<https://helpnynow.communityos.org/>

Last week, NJVOAD has signed up more than 900 volunteers seeking placements.

## Volunteer Guidelines

[Click here for New Jersey Covid- 19 Volunteer Guidelines](#) (as of 3.25.20)



# Food Pantries – Volunteers

## Documenting Volunteer Hours

GNJ urges their 540 churches and 23 Hope Centers to keep rigorous track, both electronically and on paper, of the number of hours that volunteers are providing during the COVID-19 health crisis.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that all funding from its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), money that goes toward an action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural disasters, be matched by a local not-for-profit corporation with 25 percent.



# Food Pantries – Volunteers

## Documenting Volunteer Hours, cont.

FEMA allows the organization to match funding with “in-kind” contributions related to the project. In-kind contributions can include the following but exclude cash contributions by a third party:

- Volunteer labor hours
- Donation of use of property (e.g., for 12-step programs)
- Food for food pantries and contributions to food banks
- Clothes for clothes closets and drives
- Cost of transportation
- Special-event costs



# Food Pantries – Volunteers

## Documenting Volunteer Hours, cont.

While FEMA has not yet announced HMGP funding for COVID-19-related activities, it is anticipated that such funding may be available during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 response. In Superstorm Sandy, FEMA's program was a major source of funding for rebuilding.

Additional information about FEMA in-kind contributions may be found on the FEMA website [HERE](#) and on the website for Corporation For National and Community Service [HERE](#).



# Food Pantries – Grants

- **The New Jersey Pandemic Relief Foundation (NJPRF)** is encouraging churches and other organizations that run food pantries to apply immediately for grants.
- The purpose of the grants, according to the foundation is “to help stabilize the food distribution network that provides food security for more than 1,000,000 residents in vulnerable communities across the state.”
- Thirteen United Methodist Church-related food pantries have received grants of between \$5,000 and \$25,000 from NJPRF. They were among 118 New Jersey food pantries to have received grants.
- Applications for funding are available at [www.njprf.org](http://www.njprf.org). Deadline for the first round of grants is Thursday, April 30.



# Food Pantries – Grants

## The New Jersey Pandemic Relief Foundation (NJPRF) Grant

The application is simple and straightforward. Churches and other organizations should be prepared with the following information:

- EIN (Tax ID number).
- Description of organization including: your organization's mission, programs and services, and demographic information about the population(s) served.
- Annual budget.
- Amount requested.
- Other grantors.
- Prospective use of funds.
- Pre- and post-COVID numbers of those supported.



# Food Pantries – Grants

## The GNJ COVID-19 Relief Fund

- Unemployed families who need utility bill assistance and groceries.
- Give grants to local churches and Hope Centers whose missions are providing food pantries and other frontline help.
- Fund the innovative new ministries emerging to fight the long term effects of the virus.

*Applications will be announced via GNJ Communications. More to come!*



# Food Pantries – Questionnaire

## Food Pantry Questionnaire

In order to send you timely and accurate information about food banks, food supply, potential partnerships, volunteers and grant opportunities, please complete the following questionnaire so we can resource you appropriately.

<https://www.gnjumc.org/covid19/covid-19-resources/mission/food-and-food-pantries/food-pantry-questionnaire/>



# Questions?

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