

News Release

St. Louis Area Foodbank Helping Those Affected by Government Shutdown

BRIDGETON, Mo., January 18, 2019 - The partial government shutdown is now the longest in U.S. history, having entered its 28th day. More than 800,000 federal workers, including thousands in the bi-state region, aren't getting paid.

The longer the shutdown lasts, the more federal employees find themselves in need of assistance. They are going without the income required to support themselves and their families.

Prior to the shutdown, the St. Louis Area Foodbank was already responsible for providing food and personal care to more than 392,000 individuals annually in 26 counties in eastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois. That number has risen since the shutdown was announced on December 21.

The Foodbank is working to help individuals in the bi-state region affected by the shutdown. The organization has a robust network of community partners with which they are working closely to assess the shutdown's continued impact each week.

This network of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other nonprofit feeding programs remains committed and available to offer food assistance to anyone in the community facing hardship.

"We're seeing the effects of the shutdown throughout our entire service territory," said St. Louis Area Foodbank President and CEO, Meredith Knopp. "People that have never needed assistance before are now looking for help to make ends meet. We believe that no one should go to bed hungry. The Foodbank and our network of community partners will remain vigilant to ensure that anyone in need of assistance, including affected federal workers and government contractors, receive food and personal care items - today and in the future."

Federal employees and government contractors experiencing a lapse in income are encouraged to visit their local food pantry to access vital resources. Individuals can locate their nearest food pantry by clicking on the "Find Food" tab at the top of the St. Louis Area Foodbank's website – STLFoodbank.org.

Individuals receiving SNAP Assistance can expect to receive their February SNAP benefits in January and should plan to budget accordingly and reach out to their local

food pantry if needed. Information, updates and resources regarding the impact of the shutdown on SNAP benefits are also available at: STLFoodbank.org/shutdown.

The Foodbank is working closely with its network of community partners to provide them with additional resources for as long as the shutdown lasts. The organization has also developed plans and strategies to hold additional food distributions in the community as need arises.

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St. Louis Area Foodbank

The St. Louis Area Foodbank began its service to the community in 1975. Since that time, the organization has grown to become the bi-state region's largest nonprofit 501c3 food distribution center dedicated to feeding individuals in need. Through a robust network of community partners and programs throughout 26 counties in Missouri and Illinois, the Foodbank helps provide 37 million meals annually. More than 392,000 people in the bi-state region rely on the Foodbank for assistance each year. For more information on the organization and the issue of hunger, please visit www.STLFoodbank.org.

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