

Please note: the information provided is fluid and being adjusted daily as the operation continues to grow.
Accuracy is as of the date listed.

March 31, 2020

BOYLE HEIGHTS/EAST & SOUTH LOS ANGELES FOOD SECURITY COVID-19 RELIEF INITIATIVE

OBJECTIVE

To provide food security and wellness checks to the most vulnerable populations – seniors, the homeless and the undocumented – and families in Boyle Heights during the Novel COVID-19 pandemic.

By providing over 7,000 telephonic wellness assessments to affiliated seniors and families of AH White Memorial (AHWM), USC Keck, and WELA YMCA currently being impacted by the shutdown of community resources and market scarcities. The wellness assessments are identifying seniors in need of food and supply distribution, with a need to further expand to thousands of underserved families currently impacted by LAUSD and workforce closures.

PILOT

A food distributing pilot began on Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21, 2020 and provided over 250 seniors with a week's worth of food + basic need supplies. The seniors were identified through telephonic wellness assessments conducted by the staff of the AH White Memorial Community Information Center (CIC) and Cal State University Los Angeles Public Health interns utilizing existing rosters from AHWM, USC Keck, and WELA YMCA.

PILOT OUTLINE

- Initial 250 care packages were made possible by food and supplies from AHWM's and White Memorial Church's food pantries, as well as the USC cafeterias.
- The AHWM CIC team contacted the seniors, classified them into various priority tiers, depending on need, and created delivery routes via the software, OptimoRoute.
- Four teams of two delivered the packages throughout Boyle Heights and surrounding communities.
- Each team called the seniors in advance to identify themselves and notify them that they were in route to ensure proper delivery and mitigate any concerns of a possible scam.
- Tallies of deliveries made with signatures were collected to verify delivery and to facilitate future deliveries and other services that may be needed.

SUSTAINABILITY AND RAMP-UP

Now that the pilot was initiated with results and over 1,300+ deliveries have been made, the immediate goal is to ramp-up the process to serve thousands more seniors, families and people in need. Intent is to secure additional funding, resources and volunteers to continue weekly deliveries to those most impacted throughout the pandemic.

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initiative

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Current partners and their support include:

Partners	Participation / Commitments
Adventist Health White Memorial	Cash donation to purchase food + supplies, Community Food Pantry and Logistics Command Center
Keck Medicine & University Relations of USC	Cash donation to purchase food + supplies, fresh produce, volunteers
WELA YMCA	Volunteers, logistics, sorting and distribution center
California State Assemblymember Miguel Santiago	Advocacy, volunteers, identify additional funding and resource opportunities
City of Los Angeles Councilmember Jose Huizar	Cash donation to purchase food and supplies
Asofsky Family Foundation Inc.	Cash donation to purchase food and supplies
Tito's Handmade Vodka	Cash donation to purchase food and supplies
Fresh Start Meals	Thousands of pre-packaged meals
White Memorial Adventist Church	Non-perishable goods from their Food Pantry
USC Auxiliary/Hospitality Services	Thousands of pounds of fresh produce
American Heart Association / Food Forward	Thousands of pounds of fresh produce
Chiquita Fresh North America L.L.C.	Thousands of pounds of bananas
Restaurant Depot	Thousands of pounds of produce
Gleanings for the Hungry	Dehydrated, non-perishable food (each bag serving 30 meals) per week with capacity for more as needed
Chef Mario Christerna	Gleanings for the Hungry dehydrated food recipes and cooking videos
All Saints Church (El Sereno)	Weekly deliveries from food pantry
The Giving Bank at Holy Family Church (South Pasadena)	Weekly deliveries from food pantry
Porto's Bakery	Weekly deliveries of fresh breads
Vons	Weekly delivery of bread loaves
Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling	Water and beverages
Urban Associates / PepsiCo	Water and beverages
Novamex (Jarritos)	Water and beverages

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Partners	Participation / Commitments
Los Angeles Clippers Foundation / Vision to Learn	Four transport vans and drivers

EXPANSION

Partners will be the key stakeholders in allowing the pilot to expand from an initial 250 distribution bags to over 3,000+ bags per week to help provide relief to the Boyle Heights community by utilizing:

SUPPLIERS

- Gleanings for the Hungry, Food Forward and partners listed above, in addition to existing pantries and food supplied by AHWM, the White Memorial Church and USC.

With the goal to receive donations and/or purchase food and supplies identified to be in current need due to shortages in local markets and retail stores.

IDENTIFIED SUPPLY NEED (APART FROM FOOD)

- dish soap
- trash bags
- disposable cups, plates, utensils
- hand soap
- sanitizing wipes/spray
- can opener
- stools or benches for shower
- raised toilet seats
- baby wipes
- diapers
- toilet paper
- disposable razors and shaving cream
- dental: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash, denture adhesive
- deodorant
- shampoo, conditioner
- loofah
- lip balm
- lotion
- hand sanitizer
- hydrogen peroxide
- adult diapers
- denture container
- bed food tray
- batteries
- heated blankets
- vitamin c
- eye drops
- oxygen tanks
- Kleenex
- band aids
- cough drops
- pill organizer
- compression socks
- rubbing alcohol
- saline water
- heat pads

To help continue expanding, there will be a virtual Logistics Command Center, Distribution Center, additional drivers, and adding the WELA YMCA as an additional Grab 'n Go Center for families.

SORTING & DISTRIBUTION CENTER

WELA YMCA will serve as the logistic hub for sorting and distributing food and supplies with suffice space to respect social distancing to ensure the safety of all volunteers. The sorting and distribution center will mandate each volunteer who enters to be screened with a daily questionnaire and temperature check.

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Volunteers will also be asked to wear gloves when handling food + supplies while practicing hand washing precautions as outlined by the CDC.

As a result of the blueprint created in East Los Angeles, the goal is to have additional regional YMCA's reopen and be repurposed to follow the WELA model to serve the South Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley and other impacted communities.

DESIRED IMPACT

To reduce the influx of COVID-19 cases within Boyle Heights and surrounding communities through our desire to assist and provide direct to home food security to the vulnerable senior population and families unable to secure resources during the pandemic.