
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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COVID-19 RESPONSE: GOVERNOR ESTABLISHES FEEDING IOWANS TASK FORCE

Task Force Established. At her daily press conference on April 10, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds announced the establishment of the “Feeding Iowans Task Force,” which was created to address the food insecurity experienced by many Iowa residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Reynolds noted that over 354,000 Iowans are facing food insecurity issues, and that food banks and food pantries in the State have seen an increase of 65.0% in assistance requests this year when compared to 2019. Additionally, over 40.0% of individuals who volunteer at food assistance institutions are older individuals who are now staying home due to the implications of COVID-19.

Members and Mission. Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg will lead the ad hoc Task Force with assistance from representatives of the Food Bank of Iowa, Volunteer Iowa, and the Governor’s Office to raise awareness of hunger during the pandemic, identify potential gaps in the system and connect resources to the people who need them. The following State agencies will also take part in the Task Force in an effort to coordinate a variety of State and federal resources:

- Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Department on Aging
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

There are currently six Feeding America food banks located in Iowa that work with over 1,200 community partners and provided over 38.0 million meals to Iowans in 2019. Governor Reynolds noted that funding from the federal [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) will provide monetary assistance for Iowa food banks and similar institutions.

Additional Information. Additional information regarding food assistance and volunteer opportunities is available at coronavirus.iowa.gov.

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