



Partner Agency Newsletter

June 2019

SPOTLIGHT: Agency Services Director



We are excited to introduce our new Agency Services Director, Elizabeth Peña, to the partner network! Elizabeth was formerly the Director of Development here at the Food Bank, so she is already very in tune with our goals as an organization and is excited to work with all of our partners.

Elizabeth's first nonprofit job was in high school working at the Habitat for Humanity Restore in her hometown of Abilene, TX. Elizabeth interned for the Food Bank in the Agency Relations Department in 2009 (When we were the Capital Area Food Bank!), and began fundraising for the Food Bank in 2012.

Elizabeth has both a Bachelor and Master degree in Social Work with a certificate in Nonprofit Management. She is a member of the Junior League of Austin, where she volunteers with the Food in Tummies program.

Elizabeth likes being outside as much as possible (usually hiking, running, camping, etc.), and spending time with her husband Jorge, and doxie, Wendy. When asked what she is most looking forward to in the Agency Services Director position, Elizabeth said, "Working with a new part of the amazing CTFB team, meeting as many partners as I possibly can, and listening to the agencies about how we can all work together to fight hunger."

Healthy Pantry Initiative

The mission of the Healthy Pantry Initiative is to increase the health and nutrition of Central Texans by building a stronger network of Healthy Pantry Partner Agencies that can maximize the distribution of nutritious food and offer health service resources. Through this initiative we hope to build capacity and infrastructure at the agency level to support increased distribution of produce, as well as providing appropriate and relevant skills for clients, and capacity building opportunities for volunteers and staff.



The Healthy Pantry Initiative was piloted in 2016 with five Partner Agencies. After a year of evaluation and feedback from the participating partners, we have expanded the program to include 20 Partner Agencies across our service territory and are working with them to implement strategies to help them become a healthier pantry!

This program encourages pantries to provide a variety of fresh produce, whole grains and lean proteins along with other small, but impactful modifications. Additionally, we assist Partner Agencies in creating a nutrition policy to align the procurement and distribution of foods with their goals and the vision of becoming a healthier pantry.

Something as simple as putting produce in attractive baskets or adding shelf tags that say “Choose often” or “Heart healthy” near the food helps clients make healthier choices during their visit.



A little about the Healthy Pantry Specialist: Hi! My name is Elena and I collaborate with our Partner Agencies on the Healthy Pantry Initiative program. That’s me and my dog, Lucy! I’ve worked in nonprofit and community programs in Dallas and San Antonio, covering mental health, adolescent health, cancer prevention, and nutrition. One of my favorite things about working for the community is bringing the needs of that community to the forefront and allowing them to guide what they need next. I’ve lived in Austin for almost a year now and on the weekends you’ll find me with my family, by the water, or somewhere outside in the sun.

Closures:

Please note upcoming closure dates and times:

- The Food Bank will be closed June 28 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - This closure will not affect deliveries. The last pick-up appointment will be 2:30 p.m. (30 minutes prior to 3:00 p.m. closure).
- The Food Bank will be closed for Independence Day, July 4.
 - Regional deliveries will not be rescheduled for this closure. Any agency can request a pick-up appointment on July 3 or July 5, by contacting Michelle White, Supply Chain Coordinator, at (512) 684-2150. Appointments are subject to availability. Orders for Friday July 5 are due in by 9:00 a.m. Tuesday July 2.
- The Food Bank will be closed July 30 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - This closure will not affect deliveries. The last pick-up appointment will be 2:30 p.m. (30 minutes prior to 3:00 p.m. closure).

Reminders & Resources:

Perishable Food Transportation Policy & Agreement

The Central Texas Food Bank will enforce the requirement that all Partner Agencies without refrigerated vehicles or coolers with ice/cold packs must utilize insulated freezer blankets for transporting perishable food to comply with safe food handling policies.

- Please review, sign, and send back the [Perishable Food Transportation Procedure Agreement](#) by June 30, 2019. This was sent in an email to all Partner Agencies last week.
- Your agency will but put on hold and will be unable to place orders if the signed agreement is not received by the June 30 deadline.
- The Food Bank will initially provide one (1) freezer blanket to agencies without refrigerated vehicles or coolers with ice/cold packs on their first July order at no cost. If you think your agency will need to purchase additional freezer blankets, contact us at agencies@centraltexasfoodbank.org for more information.

Income Eligibility Guidelines Update

USDA annually publishes the TEFAP Income Eligibility Guidelines, which contain household qualifying income cut-offs for annual, monthly, and weekly income levels per number of household members. The eligibility guidelines cover the period from July 1 through June 30. Current income guidelines must be utilized by partner agencies as soon as the food bank makes them available.

- The 2019-20 Income Eligibility Guidelines are now available for your agency to use beginning July 1, 2019. Please notify all staff/volunteers and begin preparing for the transition to this new form.
- The new guidelines have been updated on the USDA Intake Forms, which can be found in the [Agencies Resource Center](#) online.

Banana Boxes

Due to a surplus, the food bank is currently not accepting returned banana boxes from agency orders. Please do not bring them back to the food bank or give them to Food Bank drivers. We hope the boxes will be useful for distributions for the time being and we appreciate your assistance recycling those that are not needed. Thank you!

TEFAP Forecast:

US #2 Long Grain Rice	Apples	Oranges	Dried Cranberries
Pork Patties	Meatless Spaghetti Sauce	Diced Tomatoes	Garbanzo Beans

Applesauce	Apple & Orange Juice	Potatoes	Dry Split Pea Beans
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Contact the Team:

Name	Title	Phone	Email Address
Emily De Maria	Chief Program Officer	512-684-2541	edemaria@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Elizabeth Peña	Agency Services Director	512-684-2552	epena@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Karsten Darden	Agency Compliance Specialist	512-684-2505	kdarden@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Jessica Buchoz	Agency Compliance Specialist	512-684-2513	jbuchoz@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Tyler Markham	Agency Retail Specialist	512-684-2523	tmarkham@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Steve O'Leary	Agency Retail Coordinator	512-684-2546	soleary@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Michelle White	Supply Chain Coordinator	512-684-2150	mwhite@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Vanessa Vela	Accounts Receivable Specialist II	512-684-2103	vvela@centraltexasfoodbank.org