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Media event: Due to the expected high volume of participants, and limited space at each site, members of the media are invited to a pre-event interview on Friday, May 15 from 11:30AM-12:00PM at the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester,1026 E Center St. Mayor Kim Norton will be available for interviews, along with a volunteer from Channel One Regional Food Bank. Photos and B-roll from the actual event will also be shared with interested media. To RSVP for the Media Event and sign up for photo/B-roll access, please email Karen Lemke at klemke@rplmn.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Second round of food boxes offered for Rochester individuals, families

May 7, 2020 - ROCHESTER, MINN. - As economic hardships take hold amid the COVID-19 outbreak, community organizations are once again offering expanded access to free food.

On Friday, May 15, the City of Rochester, Channel One Regional Food Bank, Cradle 2 Career, and Family Service Rochester will all team up for a one-day Food Box Distribution event.

Community Development Director Cindy Steinhauser says the purpose of the event is two-fold. "We want people to have the access they need to food, but we also want to provide individuals with information about ongoing food support. We know the financial impacts of COVID-19 continue, and we want to make sure families know there are resources available."

Demand for services continues to grow in communities across the U.S., as an unprecedented number of individuals and families are struggling. Virginia Merritt, Executive Director of the Channel One Regional Food Bank says local resources are currently meeting that demand. "Our food bank and local food shelves are able to provide help to people who need it. While demand is high, we have the resources to make sure people aren't going hungry."

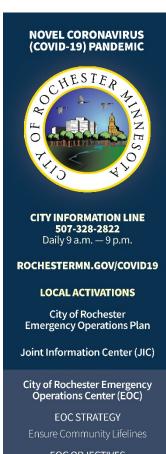
On Friday, May 15, from 12:30-1:30 PM, local families can pick up free, thirtypound boxes of food at four different locations in Rochester, including:

- **Empowerment Center**
- Boys and Girls Club of Rochester
- Cook Park
- Bear Creek Park

Food boxes include approximately enough non-perishable food to feed a family of four for a week. In addition to the food boxes, frozen meat, eggs, and fresh produce will also be available.

In order to ensure the safety of volunteers and residents, those picking up food will need to follow social distancing protocols at the drive-thru events.

- Vehicles will pull up to the designated drive through location
- Drivers **MUST** remain in their vehicle



EOC OBJECTIVES

Continuity of Operations Teammate Communication

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Stay at Home Executive Order 20-20

City of Rochester Declaration of Local Emergency Issued March 17, 2020

> **Olmsted County Public Health Emergency** Issued March 17, 2020

Minnesota Peacetime State of Emergency EM-3453 Issued March 13, 2020

National Emergency Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Issued March 13, 2020

• Drivers will open their trunk remotely and the box will be placed in the trunk. If placing the box in the trunk is not an option, the box will be placed in the back seat of the vehicle

Food Boxes are available to any local family in need, with a limit of one box per family.

For more information about food resources in the community, visit the Channel One Website at https://www.helpingfeedpeople.org/.

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