

## Advocacy Update 3.23.2020



### NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

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#### In Brief -

- Policies that can help North Texas Food Bank serve more
- Census is here!
- Help Non-Profits survive this crisis

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#### **AWARE: Coronavirus Stimulus Bill supports Food Banks**

Nationally and here at NTFB we are working hard to advocate for policies that impact our ability to serve those in need

##### Federal funding to help us with USDA foods

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act included \$1 billion for federal nutrition programs, including \$400M for TEFAP and increased flexibilities for SNAP and school meals. This is a big help to Food Banks.

##### Disaster Household Distribution Request

In response to the increased need in our communities, the North Texas Food Bank has submitted a Disaster Household Distribution Request which would allow NTFB to directly distribute the USDA's Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) foods out to our communities and allow partners to assist in this process. We asked for rule flexibilities with the program that will allow faster distributions and low- to no-contact issuance of TEFAP foods.

*This has not been approved but we are working hard to try and make it happen.*

### Letter to Governor Abbott

Feeding Texas, our state association, sent a letter on behalf of all 21 food banks in Texas to ask that Texas recognize emergency food distribution as an essential public service. As social distancing mandates increase and a potential shelter-in-place is currently being discussed, ensuring that the emergency food network stays intact during this time.

### **ACTION: Fill out your 2020 Census**

The 2020 Census is live!

If there has ever been a way to single-handedly make a quick difference for current situations, it's by filling out your Census form.

Remember, Census data is used by health care providers, health insurance companies, government agencies, and beneficiaries. They need accurate information to make decisions regarding the products and services they provide and utilize. An inaccurate measure of the U.S. population and its characteristics could deprive the health care sector of vital resources needed to ensure it is meeting each community's needs.

The Census is live and you can fill it out online. If you don't have your code, that's ok. You can just enter your home address!

It took me only **5 minutes and 1 second** to fill out my form.

[Please go HERE to fill yours out and email me if you beat my time.](#)

### **ACTION: Help non-profits weather this storm!**

The charitable sector is on the front lines of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, but risks catastrophic damage from evaporating revenue, new demands, and major disruptions in charitable giving. Tell your legislators that Congress must provide emergency aid to nonprofit organizations by expanding charitable giving and providing organizations with grants, loans, and tax credits.

[Go HERE](#)

Enter in your address, and a letter will populate for you to send your Representatives. It is fully editable so please put information about why emergency aid to your non-profit is needed now.

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Questions or Comments?

How are you doing?

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