

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Haley Buchanan

Office: (251) 653-1617 ext. 141

hbuchanan@feedingthegulfcoast.org



Feeding the Gulf Coast | 5248 Mobile South St., Theodore, AL 36582 | (251) 653-1617

FEEDING THE GULF COAST ASSISTING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Theodore, AL – January 9, 2019 –

Entering the third week of the partial government shutdown, Feeding the Gulf Coast has begun to work with its community partners and agencies to identify and fill any gaps in the food supply.

As 800,000 government employees are facing furlough or working without pay, Feeding the Gulf Coast would like to assure the communities it serves that it will continue to provide food assistance to anyone affected by the partial government shutdown, personal crisis, or disaster. "We are grateful for all of the hard-working federal employees who choose to call the Gulf Coast home. They invest in our community economically and philanthropically and we want to minimize the hardship for them in these uncertain times," says Cathy Pope, Feeding the Gulf Coast President & CEO.

Ways to get involved:

- Host a food drive to help supplement any gaps in food supply or increase in the number of clients seeking food assistance as a result of the partial government shutdown.
- Make a monetary donation to Feeding the Gulf Coast. Earmark the donation: "Government Shutdown Relief." These funds will be used to provide mobile pantries throughout Feeding the Gulf Coast's service area and to help procure additional food items.
- Share your story with Feeding the Gulf Coast. How is your community being impacted by the partial government shutdown? Share your story by visiting: <https://feedingthegulfcoast.org/share-your-story/>.

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About Feeding the Gulf Coast:

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning south Alabama, south Mississippi and the Panhandle of Florida. In 2018, the food bank distributed over 22 million meals to over 400 church pantries, soup kitchens and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple hunger-relief and nutrition programs, including Summer Meals, Afterschool Meal, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Mobile Pantry and Produce Drop Distributions, Nutrition Education, and

SNAP Outreach. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way member agency and a member of Feeding America. For more information, visit www.feedingthegulfcoast.org.

Feeding the Gulf Coast's Non-discrimination Policy

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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