

Q&A Fact Sheet

April 28, 2015



QUESTION:

Why does the Food Bank need to close its current warehouse locations in Paso Robles and Oceano?

ANSWER:

The Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County, which distributed 6.1 million pounds of food in 2014, has outgrown its current warehouse facilities. The merging of the two current warehouses into one central warehouse will significantly decrease current overhead costs, and allow the Food Bank to construct a new facility that is designed to suit the organization's operational needs into the future. It will also make the process of distributing food more efficient as services and programs function from one common space. This consolidation is a crucial step for the Food Bank to maintain programs and continue to meet the needs of the community.

QUESTION:

How will the construction of a new warehouse benefit the Food Bank? Won't that just cost more money?

ANSWER:

By merging the two current warehouse locations, the Food Bank expects significant cost savings in overhead expenses. By operating under one roof, the Food Bank can use these savings to provide more nutritious food to the people we serve. The Food Bank spoke with several local organizations who experienced cost savings from self-developing their own facilities and it is anticipated that by self-developing, the Food Bank will save roughly \$425,000 in the construction of our new facility in collaboration with our chosen development partners.

QUESTION:

How will this consolidation affect the current Food Bank staff and volunteers?

ANSWER:

All employees who want to come with the Food Bank to the new SLO location will have the opportunity to do so. If someone's job is being eliminated but they wish to continue working with the Food Bank, they will be able to look at other jobs for which they are qualified. The Food Bank will always consider current employees first for any new positions before opening up the position to outside candidates.

The Food Bank is incorporating plans that make it easy for any volunteers to continue with them without having to make a commute to San Luis Obispo. While we understand that some volunteers may be unable to continue in their current duties due to new systems of operation, there are plenty of opportunities to serve with the Food Bank through their direct food programs that happen countywide. Many agency and community partners may also have need for additional volunteers, and we will work with you to find the right fit.

QUESTION:

What plans does the Food Bank have to ensure that agency and community partners in North and South counties are still able to easily acquire their needed food supplies?

ANSWER:

To continue their service to North and South counties, the Food Bank is planning special delivery routes and drop off locations to serve the 200 community and agency partners who work with the coalition to distribute food to those in need. Partners will have the ability to order their needed items, which could be packed and delivered to an area near them or picked up directly from the new facility.

This new infrastructure will also increase operational efficiency as trucks currently leave warehouses empty when they rescue food from grocery stores countywide. In our upgraded process, trucks will leave our warehouses full with pre-packed agency orders that they can drop off on their routes.

QUESTION:

How will this change affect those who rely on the Food Bank for food?

ANSWER:

The population that receives food from the Food Bank will continue to be served by our direct food programs as well as the agency and community partners in their area. In addition, new driving routes and drop off stations will help us to expand our reach so we can better access all areas of our county. We have 10 Food Bank programs and 57 direct distribution sites that will continue serving those who are food insecure.

QUESTION:

Where is the new facility being constructed and how long will it take for the warehouse to be completed?

ANSWER:

The new Food Bank facility will be constructed on a recently purchased lot on Kendall Road in San Luis Obispo. While the transition process overall will take approximately 12 months, the project is expected to be completed by mid-2016.

QUESTION:

How can the community stay up to speed on construction updates and news regarding the transition?

ANSWER:

The Food Bank will be holding regular meetings for agency and community partners to keep them informed on recent developments. The public can expect frequent news updates that will be posted to our website, as well as on social media.

With further questions or concerns, please contact:

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