



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

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High Plains Food Bank Participates in Commodity Supplemental Food Program to Assist Food-Insecure Senior Adults

Amarillo, TX – High Plains Food Bank (HPFB) is participating in Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to better assist elderly persons in our community who struggle with food insecurity. The program is a monthly food supplement, provided to those 60 years and older, who meet certain criteria, indicating a need for assistance. Those who qualify will receive a 25-30-pound box of healthy food items each month.

High Plains Food Bank will serve up to 2,000 clients per month through the CSFP program, and has already begun holding qualifying events in the Amarillo area. HPFB can serve an additional 1700 elderly persons at this time, and will offer an event for potential participants on Tuesday, September 19 at 10:00am, at the Amarillo Senior Citizens Association at 1220 S. Polk Street. The event is open to the public, and all seniors 60 years and older who meet eligibility requirements will be enrolled in the program. Participants must recertify every 6 months.

Eligibility Requirements are as follows:

1. Categorical Eligibility: Individuals 60 years of age or older
 - Applicants must provide valid proof of identity to verify age. Acceptable forms of proof of identification include:
 1. Birth Certificate
 2. Baptismal Certificate
 3. Health Card
 4. Driver's License
 5. Military ID
 6. Passport
 7. Refugee Visa

2. Residential Eligibility: Individuals who reside within a designated CSFP service area. Individuals who live within the Food Bank’s 29-county service area and are residentially eligible to participate in CSFP.

- Applicants must provide valid proof of address to verify residency. Acceptable forms of proof of address include:

- Current utility bill at state address with the applicant’s name, parent’s name, or caretaker’s name on the bill
- Mail received by the applicant during the last 30 days at the stated address with a post mark
- Lease and current month rent receipts
- Current Driver’s license or Identification Card

3. Income Eligibility: Individuals whose household income is at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

- The Federal Poverty Income Guidelines must be implemented immediately upon receipt of notification from USDA, and will remain in effect until notification of the income guidelines for the following year.

- Applicants must provide valid proof of gross household income. Acceptable forms of proof of income include:

- Social Security award letter
- Pay Stub for previous month
- Income tax return
- Bank statement showing direct deposit of income
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) award letter

Based on 130% of Federal Poverty Guidelines			
Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$ 15,678.00	\$ 1,307.00	\$ 302.00
2	\$ 21,112.00	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 406.00
3	\$ 26,546.00	\$ 2,213.00	\$ 511.00
4	\$ 31,980.00	\$ 2,665.00	\$ 615.00
5	\$ 37,414.00	\$ 3,118.00	\$ 720.00
6	\$ 42,848.00	\$ 3,571.00	\$ 824.00
7	\$ 48,282.00	\$ 4,024.00	\$ 929.00
8	\$ 53,716.00	\$ 4,477.00	\$ 1,033.00
For each additional household member add:			
	\$ 5,747.00	\$ 453.00	\$ 105.00

Program Background:

CSFP was authorized under the Agriculture and Commerce Protection Act of 1973. The purpose of the CSFP is to improve the health and nutritional status of elderly persons 60 years of age or older who are at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines through nutrition education activities, and the donation of supplemental foods.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to administer the CSFP in Texas. The High Plains Food Bank is a Contracting Entity (CE) of the TDA's administration of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

Supplemental Provision:

Each month, CSFP participants receive one 25-30-pound box of shelf-stable groceries, and a 2-pound block of cheese, to supplement their diets. Items include cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, canned animal proteins, additional protein items such as dry beans and peanut butter, grains, liquid milk, and dry milk on alternating months. Each item provided to CSFP clients is intended to be a healthy addition to meals they prepare at home when other food sources are running low.

High Plains Food Bank CSFP Caseload:

TDA has given High Plains Food Bank a caseload of 2,000 participants to serve per month. HPFB will begin administering CSFP in October 2017. After the 2,000 caseload is met, the HPFB will start a first come, first served waiting list.

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More about CSFP from USDA:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/csfp/commodity-supplemental-food-program-csfp>

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About High Plains Food Bank

Food banking solves two problems: hunger and waste. High Plains Food Bank (HPFB) is a humanitarian resource responsible for securing, processing, and distributing food to charitable organizations who provide it directly to persons in need in the top 29 counties of the Texas Panhandle. In 2006, HPFB distributed 7.6 million pounds of food to around 96,000 Panhandle residents. High Plains Food Bank also supports programs that improve food insecurity and health among the people we serve through our Kids Cafe program, Direct Mobile Distribution program, and The Garden at High Plains Food Bank. It is High Plains Food Bank's mission to alleviate hunger for the 1 in 7 in the Texas Panhandle who struggle with food insecurity, including 1 in 4 children.

High Plains Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider.