

HIGH PLAINS FOOD BANK

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PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

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High Plains Food Bank Seeks to Expand Senior Food Program to Borger, Texas

Initial qualifying event will help food bank determine program feasibility, in serving Borger and surrounding communities.

High Plains Food Bank (HPFB) seeks to expand a senior adult food program to Borger, Texas, in an effort to offer eligible senior adults a resource for quality, supplemental nutrition. High Plains Food Bank will host a qualifying event in Borger, Texas, and hopes to attract local Borger seniors, as well as those in surrounding communities. This is an initial, trial-run event, to gain a better understanding of the needs of senior adults in the Borger community, as well as surrounding communities. Based upon interest and turnout at an upcoming qualifying event, the food bank will determine the feasibility of providing the senior food program to the Borger area, on a monthly basis. *Qualifying seniors who attend this initial event will receive a food box before leaving.*

Borger, TX qualifying event information:

Interested senior adults are encouraged to attend the Borger Salvation Army at 1090 Coronado Circle on Friday, April 6 between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Seniors will need to bring **identification and proof of income**. A form of **identification** may include any of the following: driver's license, state ID card, birth certificate, permanent resident card, passport, military ID, refugee visa, baptismal certificate or health ID card. And a form of **proof of income** may include any of the following: Social Security letter, paystub from previous month, income tax return, bank statement, or a supplemental security income letter (SSI).

UPDATE TO THE EVENT IN BORGER, TX ON FRIDAY, APRIL 6:

Again, seniors who arrive and qualify in Borger Friday, April 6 will receive a 25-30-pound box of supplemental food during the course of the event. The value of the box of food is between \$60 and \$70. Seniors will also receive a 2-pound block of commodity cheese, in addition to the 25-30-pound box of food.

The event is open to the public. Based upon the numbers of senior adults who are interested and may qualify, High Plains Food Bank will determine the feasibility of offering this program to seniors in the Borger, TX area on a monthly basis. Borger, TX would serve as the central meeting and distribution point for surrounding communities.

HPFB partners with the Texas Department of Agriculture to provide the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to eligible seniors, 60 years of age and older. Seniors who qualify for the program receive a 25-30-pound box of food each month, intended to be a healthy addition to meals they prepare at home when other food sources are running low. The items included in the CSFP food box are U.S. Department of Agriculture products, and therefore seniors must qualify for the program by first meeting USDA's *Income Eligibility Guidelines*, which will be listed on a form provided.

Should the program begin to operate in Borger, seniors 60 years and older who meet eligibility requirements will be enrolled. Participants must recertify every 6 months.

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.

High Plains Food Bank's CSFP Caseload:

TDA has given High Plains Food Bank (HPFB) a caseload of 2,000 participants to serve per month. HPFB began administering CSFP in October of 2017.

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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 180 charitable organizations who provide it directly to persons in need, in the top 29 counties of the

Texas Panhandle. In 2017, HPFB distributed 8.2 million pounds of food to over 96,000 households. In an effort to fight food insecurity and improve the health of those served, HPFB provides a variety of community programs, including Kids Cafe, Direct Mobile Distribution, a senior adult food program (CSFP), and nutrition education through The Garden at High Plains Food Bank. The food bank also assists individuals with the application process for SNAP, CHIP, and Medicaid. 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.