



United Way of Anchorage

Triple play: feed the hungry, help restaurants, employ workers

CARES Act assistance grant goes a long way in Anchorage

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ANCHORAGE, AK - The Alaska Hospitality Retailers Association, the Municipality of Anchorage, and United Way of Anchorage have partnered for a win-win-win response to the continued economic impact of COVID-19 on businesses, workers, and families.

A grant program will bring desperately needed revenue to Anchorage restaurants, keep restaurant workers on the job, and provide meals to hard-pressed families and individuals who have lost income due to COVID-19.

Here is how it works: food service businesses can receive funds each week through the end of the year to prepare meals for organizations that provide food to low-income families and individuals struggling to make ends meet during the pandemic. The program serves children, seniors, people experiencing disabilities, and those seeking housing, jobs, and safe shelter.

"This type of win-win-win program is an Anchorage solution at its finest," said Acting Mayor Quinn-Davidson. "It brings us together to support businesses, frontline workers, and people who are struggling to make ends meet."

The United Way of Anchorage received a grant from the Coronavirus Nonprofit Relief Grants administered by the Alaska Community Foundation in partnership with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. Up to \$600,000 will help keep families fed and restaurants afloat, and will provide income to restaurant workers – cooks, dishwashers, and delivery staff – who have been hit hard by the pandemic's fierce economic fallout.

The goal is to provide approximately 30,000 meals by the end of 2020.

"At its core, this is about helping our neighbors, particularly the most vulnerable among us," said Clark Halvorson, President, United Way of Anchorage. "This is a rapid and all-of-Anchorage response to the dramatic increase in food insecurity and lost income in our city."

The pilot effort of the program proved its worth. 49th State Brewing, Matanuska Brewing Co., Subway and Lucky Wishbone/Kindred Spirits provided almost 2,300 meals to Kids' Corps, Boys and Girls Clubs, AWAIC, Alaska Child and Family, Hope Community Resources and the Camp Fire Learning Pods that provide safe schooling and meals to low-income kids. Additional meals recipients will be brought on board in the coming weeks.

“AkHR is incredibly pleased to be part of this program, said Silvia Villamides, Executive Director of Alaska Hospitality Retailers Association. “As we expand the pilot program, we could not be more satisfied with the level of participation that has taken place from both the restaurants and the recipients.”

Food service businesses that have the capacity and interest to participate can apply to the program through the [Alaska Hospitality Retailers website](#).

About United Way of Anchorage

United Way of Anchorage is a community of donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners working together to improve the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. LIVE UNITED.