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PRESS RELEASE

Housing Authority Assists Local Supporters with Making Food Donations to Help Residents in Need

HABC & City partners are coordinating specific donation instructions that will benefit the residents in public housing communities

(BALTIMORE – April 9, 2020) – After receiving an outpouring of support from individuals, organizations and businesses to make food donations to residents in public housing communities during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) has established a donation system to ensure food and other necessities are delivered through the appropriate city agencies.

As, HABC encourages anyone with food and other product donations to call **410-545-3662** and specific instructions will be provided depending on the donated product. HABC will work through the Baltimore City Department of Planning to connect donations with the correct location and partners.

“HABC and its food donation partners during COVID-19 continue to work to ensure that our most vulnerable communities have consistent and safe access to nutritious food,” said HABC’s CEO Janet Abrahams. “We have established this phone line to help streamline the donation process while we ensure there are no disruptions to housing programs and services during this national emergency.”

For all non-perishable food items, these donations will be directed to the Maryland Food Bank. For fresh produce, other perishable food items, and non-food items, HABC requests that supporters send a detailed email listing all of the items to habc.donations@habc.org. Additionally, supporters are asked to include if the donations are for a specific community or target population and the date when the donations can be made. HABC will facilitate all efforts between donors and the appropriate city agencies.

“As we seek every opportunity available to us right now to provide food services and donations, we need to ensure that all precautionary measures are being taken throughout the entire process,” said HABC’s CEO Janet Abrahams. “Federal, state and local authorities have issued directives and guidelines that all food distributors and handlers must follow in order to combat

the spread of the coronavirus. The health and safety of all residents, their families and our staff is always our number one priority.”

HABC will continue partnering with organizations to assist with meal distribution efforts, including the Baltimore City Mobile Meal Distribution for youth and children 18 years and younger Monday through Friday at all family developments. The delivery schedule by location is available at [Coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov](https://www.coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov)

In addition, My Groceries to Go!, also known as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program that provides nutritious USDA food to low-income seniors, has started distributing meals to participants at HABC developments. The food boxes for April will contain almost double the amount of nutritious food as usual to respond to the increased need during the COVID-19 health crisis. The Maryland Food Bank is delivering the allotted food packages.

HABC provides updates and schedules on its website, www.habc.org, and stay connected on its various social media platforms.

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