



Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services

A monthly newsletter brought to you by Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services

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Top stories in this newsletter



MEIRS response to COVID-19



MEIRS food distribution



Youth & Family Services



Behavioral Health Services

MEIRS Response to COVID-19



MEIRS has been responding COVID-19 in various ways to provide awareness and education to our immigration and refugee communities. MEIRS in partnership with other ECBOs, created a task-force that provides education and awareness in many platforms. The taskforce including MEIRS did a massive test awareness campaign letting people know the importance of testing, social distancing and face covering. Abdikadir Negeye, MEIRS assistance Director has come to MEIRS food distribution center to talk to parents about COVID-19.

In the month of July, MEIRS help 353 individuals with:

- ◇ Unemployment related issues
- ◇ Housing related issues
- ◇ Job related and landlord related issues
- ◇ Covid-19 informational messages to using widely used platform within immigrant and refugee community



MEIRS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Even though food insecurity was prevalence in our community, COVID-19 crisis made it worse and many communities struggle with food and with the help food the Auburn Good Shepherd Food Bank, MEIRS distributes Food to its community three times a week since this pandemic started. In the month of July we have distributed more than 300 families from various backgrounds and culture.

MEIRS would like to thank the Good Shepard Food Bank and the incredible community volunteers who come every week to help us distribute food, make sure people are following social distancing, face covering and sanitizing, we wouldn't have done it with you.

DONATION

We are looking donation to continue providing this vital food distribution initiative to the community during this tough time. MEIRS has been renting two-three trucks from U-haul/Budget every week to pick the food from the Food bank. We spend \$500-600 a week depending on the renting agency and we looking for donation to cover those expenses. You can send your donation to

Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services

POBOX 7149, Lewiston, ME 04243

You can also donate only by visiting

<https://meirs.org/support-us/#donation>



MEIRS Youth & Family Services

It has been tough couple months for the youth in our community and many struggle to stay home without any activities or programming outside their home due to COVID-19. MEIRS started its summer youth programs with pods of ten that plays soccer and do activities together. These pods are screened daily and temperature checked to make sure the safety of our youth, volunteers and staff.



Behavioral Health Services

MEIRS BHS include, case management services, out patient counseling, HCT services and section 28 sections. These services provide mental health services to individuals to deal with stress, anxiety during this uncertain time.

MEIRS is looking qualified staff to join our diverse population, if you are interested or know anyone interested please visit

<https://meirshr.bamboohr.com/jobs/>

You can also refer clients who may need any of the services mentioned above by completing our referral form at <https://meirs.org/referral-page/>