



# *Mesa* CARES

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**April 23, 2020 Study Session**

- Launched proactive community outreach of pandemic impacts
- Initial 3-day Community Assessment -- April 6-8<sup>th</sup>
- Continue to receive community feedback on priority needs



## Survey Results-- Residents

### **1. Access to Food**

- Fresh/dry foods
- Concern for most vulnerable populations

### **2. Timely Emergency Medical Response & Police Protection**

### **3. Access to Household Supplies**

### **4. Access to Medications**

### **5. Assistance with Rent, Utilities & Unemployment Insurance**

### **6. Mental Health Services**



# Mesa CARES

## Feeding Mesa Program Mission

Address Mesa residents' highest priority need of “**Access to Food**” (based on Community Needs Assessment) by providing nutritious food/meals to Mesa residents who have been affected by COVID-19 and by partnering with existing services, non-profits and Mesa-based restaurants.





# Mesa CARES

## Feeding Mesa Program

**Program Goals (Joint effort between Mesa Fire and Medical and Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Departments):**

- Provide convenient, nutritious ways for residents to obtain food
- Support Mesa non-profits who have increased needs due to the impacts of COVID-19
- Keep Mesa-based restaurants open
- Repurpose City staff affected by facility closures

## **Feeding Mesa Target Demographics**

- School children and families
- Homeless
- Unemployed/underemployed
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Low Income Families
- Homebound individuals



# Mesa CARES

## • Feeding Mesa Programs for Consideration

1. Citywide Food Distribution Programs (immediately)
2. Restaurant Kitchen Buy-Out Program (under development)
3. Mesa CARES Card Program (under development)



# Mesa CARES

## Restaurant Kitchen “Food Buy Out” Program

**Goal: Provide additional business for Mesa-based restaurants by providing meals for the community**

- Supplement or add to:
  - Meals on Wheels type program
  - Assisted Living Facilities
  - Food Services for frontline healthcare workers
- Determine interest in restaurants
  - Availability
  - Capability to produce in mass
  - Establish program requirements for restaurants to ensure nutritional value
- Determine transportation needs to move food from restaurant to distribution points





# Mesa CARES

## Mesa CARES Card

**Goal: Create a branded Mesa CARES card to be redeemed at select Mesa restaurants**

- Cards would be distributed to eligible community members in need
- Utilize vetting processes used by MPS, United Food Bank, City Departments and non-profit organizations
- Work with Chamber of Commerce and the City to identify Mesa businesses whose have been negatively impacted
- Participating restaurants throughout the City will create meal packages for purchase
- Mesa CARES card will cover meal package and provide immediate payment to restaurant



# Mesa CARES

## Food Distribution Program

**Goal:** Establish relationships with various non-profit food distribution organizations who have an increased need for assistance with the distribution of food due to COVID-19

## **Food Distribution Program**

### **“Help Yourself Fridays” at Mesa Convention Center**

- City of Mesa partnership with the United Food Bank (UFB) to utilize the Mesa Convention Center parking lot Thursday’s for staging and Friday for food distribution
- UFB fed 500-550 families pre-COVID and currently serving over 2,300 families and growing each week

## **Food Distribution Program**

### **“Help Yourself Fridays” at Mesa Convention Center**

- Continue City of Mesa and UFB partnership through August 30, 2020 through facility rental agreement
- Explore indoor options to further utilize the Mesa Convention Center for additional food storage, packing and distribution





# Mesa CARES

## **Additional Citywide Food Distribution Centers**

**(United Food Bank and Midwest Food Bank &  
Partner Non-Profits and Faith-based Agencies)**

- Identify key partnerships with organizations already providing this service
- Identify distribution sites (House of Refuge and other non-profits, faith-based organizations, schools, community centers, etc.) at geographic locations throughout the City
- Assess the availability of food and identify sources to acquire food items
- Distribution Methods
  - Work directly with non-profit partners who already have intake procedures in place



# Mesa CARES

## **Additional Food Distribution Programs (Mesa Public Schools)**

Mesa Public Schools – McKinney-Vento Program:

- Homeless student program
- Nearly 300 children participate
- A need for 300 “snack packs” a week
- Will help support weekend food needs



# Mesa CARES

## **Food Distribution Program Expenses (Excludes Restaurant Buy-out and Mesa CARES Cards)**

- Non-Perishable food items for initial 12-week supply – Approx. \$200,000 (Midwest Food Bank only)
- United Food Bank Mesa Convention Center Rental – Approx. \$30k per week (additional fees could incur for kitchen and trailer storage area rental)
- Mesa Staffing – Approx. \$52,000 per week
- Transportation and Delivery Costs – TBD



*Mesa* **CARES**

**QUESTIONS?**