



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Zachary Webb
Second Harvest Food Bank
P: 814-459-3663 x 114
zwebb@nwpafoodbank.org

Second Harvest Offers Food to Furloughed Federal Employees

Erie, PA., January 15, 2019 – After missing a paycheck last Friday and facing an uncertain future, thousands of furloughed government employees are now making difficult decisions about what they can and cannot afford. To help make sure furloughed federal employees and their families don't go hungry, the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania is welcoming affected families to receive food at a Produce Express Drive Thru Food Distribution on Tuesday, January 22nd.

Additionally, any federal employee affected by the shutdown can access food through a significant portion of Second Harvest's network of nearly 412 member agencies and distribution partners throughout northwest Pennsylvania. Affected employees can simply visit www.nwpafoodbank.org and click on **Need Help?** on the home page, or call (814) 459-3663 to be directed to an agency nearby.

"We realize that many people who have never accessed our services may now need to due to the unique circumstances resulting from the federal shutdown," said Executive Director Karen Seggi. "Second Harvest is working to meet the needs of our neighbors who are struggling with food insecurity, and we hope to help furloughed federal employees navigate this difficult time."

WHAT: Produce Express Drive Thru Food Distribution

WHEN: Tuesday, January 22, 2019, starting at 4 p.m.

WHY: Second Harvest is committed to helping those who are food insecure including federal employees affected by the shutdown

WHERE: Second Harvest, 1507 Grimm Drive, Erie, PA 16501

Participation in the Produce Express is **free**. Food items that recipients have received at a recent Second Harvest Drive Thru Food Distribution include: milk, cottage cheese, apples, mushrooms, onions, tomatoes, potatoes, strawberry cups, tomato sauce, saltine crackers, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese and ice cream.

Those in need of food must call (814) 459-3663 x 103 to pre-register for the Produce Express event before Thursday, January 17th at 4pm. Furloughed government employees are asked to identify themselves as federal employees. Should the shutdown continue, Second Harvest will continue to offer the services of the Produce Express on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month to those employees. Member agencies across northwest Pennsylvania maintain regular hours of operation to help those in need.

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About the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania

The mission of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania is to provide food to those in need within 11 counties of northwest Pennsylvania while creating awareness and educating the community on the realities of hunger. Last year, Second Harvest distributed 9.2 million meals through 412 member agencies and distribution partners. Second Harvest serves the following 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren.