



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Zachary Webb**  
Second Harvest Food Bank  
P: 814-459-3663 x 114  
[zwebb@NWPFoodbank.org](mailto:zwebb@NWPFoodbank.org)

## **Second Harvest Continues its Response for those Affected by the COVID-19 Crisis**

**Erie, Pa., April 7, 2020** – The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania continues to amplify its efforts in Erie County to provide hunger relief during the COVID-19 crisis. Adjustments are being made daily to update operations in accordance with health and safety recommendations. Each step taken by Second Harvest is done to keep clients, member agencies and staff safe from the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) while also meeting the increased requests for food assistance.

Second Harvest and its network of member food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters remain open to help those in need of food. If you or someone you know is needs assistance and resides within in Erie County, please call the Second Harvest Emergency Food Line at (814) 459-3663 x 117, or visit the agency locator at <https://www.nwpafoodbank.org/agency-locator/> to receive support.

Clients will be matched to an Erie County agency and receive a one-time emergency allocation of food. Clients will then be referred to a regular pantry to receive ongoing support to meet their needs.

“We have seen a significant increase of households being served in the month of March, which is reflective of the challenges many are facing during the COVID-19 crisis” says Karen S. Seggi, Second Harvest CEO. “We continue to answer these calls for help by acquiring and distributing additional food to meet the needs of our communities.”

Funding from the Erie Community Foundation has played an essential role in feeding those in need within Erie County. Erin Fessler, Vice President of Marketing & Community/Government Relations, says “quote.”

A gift from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has enabled Second Harvest to provide an increased supply of food through its network of member agencies. “In times of great crisis, a community is tested to support its most vulnerable citizens,” says Perry Wood, Executive Director at ECGRA. “The ECGRA grant to Second Harvest will allow Second Harvest to increase their supplies and effective distribution to Erie County pantries and member agencies.”

Individuals who are facing food insecurity challenges for the first time are encouraged to reach out to the Second Harvest Emergency Food Line at 814 459-3663 x 117 to find resources that are available to them during these challenging times.

###

*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 9.6 million meals through an anti-hunger network of 399 partner organizations. Second Harvest serves the following 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren.