



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Sonny Perdue
MAY - 3 2017

*"Do Right and
Feed Everyone"*

SUBJECT: Announcing the 2017 Feds Feed Families Food Drive

Since 2009, through the remarkable generosity of Federal employees, the Feds Feed Families Food Drive has collected nearly 69.8 million pounds of food for those in need. Last year alone, more than 12.5 million pounds were donated and provided to food banks and pantries. I extend my sincere appreciation to Federal employees for making a difference in fighting hunger.

The latest estimates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) show that in 2016, food insecurity impacted 19 percent of American households at some point during the year. This means they lacked access to enough food for an active healthy life for all household members. Even with the assistance that USDA provides, food insecurity is a reality for 50 million Americans.

No matter where you live, there are folks in your community who work hard, but have trouble putting food on their plate. This is a very real problem that Federal employees can help address in urban and rural areas alike. Each year, millions of Americans turn to food banks and food pantries for emergency food assistance. During summer months, demand increases significantly, and donations decline.

To help meet this critical need, I am pleased to announce the 2017 Feds Feed Families food Drive from June 1 to August 31, 2017. USDA will lead the campaign again with the support of the Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCO) Council and our Department/Agency partners.

The Feds Feed Families Food Drive is a voluntary effort by Federal employees to collect and donate food for those in need. In Washington, D.C., the Capital Area Food Bank receives these collections and distributes them through its network of more than 500 partner organizations. Donations will also be distributed to food banks and pantries across the country, including fruits and vegetables gleaned from the fields and gardens. This year will also include an opportunity to collect pet food.

To support this year's campaign, we ask that your CHCO appoint a Chair and at least one Champion who will oversee the effort for your department /agency. The Chair provides oversight of the food drive campaign across your department/agency, from headquarters to sub-agencies to regional and field offices. The Champion(s) coordinate the collection logistics, ensuring that all goods collected are weighed, reported, and delivered to their destination. The CHCO, Chair, and Champion work together to ensure your organization's success.

Please e-mail the name of your agency Chair and Champion(s) by Monday, May 15, 2017, to fedsfeedfamilies@usda.gov. Information about upcoming events, including training and a kick-off event, will be posted soon at www.usda.gov/fedsfeedfamilies.

Thank you for your support of this very worthy effort. I am confident that this year, employees here in Washington and in offices across the country will step up once and again to help.