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DEPUTY MAYOR GIBBS AND THE MAYOR'S FUND TO ADVANCE NEW YORK CITY ANNOUNCE NEW GRANT PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS IN AREAS RECOVERING FROM HURRICANE SANDY

Mayor's Fund Provides More Than \$1.7 Million to Food Bank For New York City and City Harvest for Grants to Emergency Food Providers

Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Linda I. Gibbs, Megan Sheekey, President of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, Human Resources Administration Commissioner Robert Doar, New York City Food Policy Coordinator Kim Kessler, Food Bank For New York City and City Harvest today announced a new grant program to support the citywide emergency food network of soup kitchens and food pantries that served community needs in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. With funding from the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, grants are supporting the post-Sandy distribution of thousands of meals throughout the hardest hit communities, as well as helping with the rebuilding and improved resiliency of emergency food providers working in Sandy-affected areas. Grants are being awarded on a rolling basis until mid-April.

"Food pantries and soup kitchens responded swiftly to meet community needs after Hurricane Sandy, even when they themselves had been impacted," said Deputy Mayor Gibbs. "The City is committed to helping our non-profit partners get back on their own feet as they continue to help our neighbors recover."

"Emergency food providers have been on the front lines of support for communities recovering from Hurricane Sandy," said President of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City Megan Sheekey. "We are grateful to our donors and our partners at Food Bank For New York City and City Harvest who are working hard to restore and strengthen these networks at such a critical time for our city."

"In the first 20 days after the storm, our Emergency Food Assistance Program and our partner agencies distributed over half a million pounds of food to the affected neighborhoods," said Human Resources Administration Commissioner Robert Doar. "While HRA continues to monitor the need for food in these areas, this funding program helps bridge the gap between need and nutrition, and helps programs return to pre-Sandy operations."

(more)

“In the weeks and months following the storm, our office has worked in close collaboration with relief organizations, who went to great lengths to provide food to those in need,” said Food Policy Coordinator Kim Kessler. “The Mayor’s Fund grants will support the many providers that sprang into action right after the storm, and those that have sustained their efforts through the long term, helping to feed thousands of New Yorkers who have relied upon their services.”

“Because Food Bank For New York City has been on the ground in communities hard hit by Hurricane Sandy before, during and long after the storm, we know firsthand that the need has not abated,” said Margarett Purvis, President and CEO of Food Bank For New York City. “With the support of the Mayor’s Fund, Food Bank will be able to ensure that the soup kitchens and food pantries serving those communities have the means to continue providing the food, benefits and services Sandy survivors need to rebuild their lives.”

“City Harvest has distributed nearly six million pounds of food in direct response to Hurricane Sandy and we are very appreciative of the Mayor’s Fund grant program which will enable us to further assist the emergency food programs with whom we work,” said Executive Director of City Harvest Jilly Stephens. “We will use these generous grants to assist soup kitchens and food pantries who have been working hard to accommodate the increased numbers of clients they are seeing.”

“The American Red Cross is proud to work alongside the City of New York and our nonprofit partners to ensure the delivery of hundreds of thousands of meals to those affected by Superstorm Sandy,” said Red Cross Regional CEO Josh Lockwood. “The Red Cross stands committed to working with these partners to meet the evolving needs of our community.”

After Hurricane Sandy, many emergency food providers faced a new reality as their client base grew, even as many of them were struggling to rebuild their own facilities. More than twenty emergency food providers – or nearly a third of those located in Sandy-affected areas – suffered loss of power, flooding or structural damage following the storm. Grants leverage existing support from the Red Cross of Greater New York. Emergency food providers are being selected by Food Bank For New York City and City Harvest to receive mini-grants for the following uses:

- **Food:** Provide food grants to help programs that lost shelf-stable and/or perishable food due to power outages or flooding. Food grants will also be provided to programs that need extra food to meet increased demand and to ensure that quality, nutritious food is on their pantry shelves and in their soup kitchens.
- **Benefits Outreach:** Provide marketing tools, technical assistance, and direct cash support to programs that conduct benefits outreach, such as SNAP, in hard-hit areas.
- **Program Operations:** Cash grants will help agencies cover costs, both past and projected, associated with the increased work of distributing disaster food and supplies and conducting benefits outreach activities in the affected zones, including increased staffing and volunteer needs, as well as transportation and other staffing expenses. Additionally, these cash grants will help programs that sustained losses not reimbursable by FEMA and help them become fully operational again.

About the City's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)

HRA's Emergency Food Assistance Program provides food and funding to nearly 500 soup kitchens and food pantries. Thirty-five of those emergency food programs are located in the areas affected by Sandy. Several of these programs are still inoperable. HRA's Emergency Food Assistance Program distributed 505,238 pounds of food within two to three weeks after Sandy, almost a 50 percent increase over the same time period of the prior month. HRA expedited delivery of food to pantries and soup kitchens in the affected areas so they could continue to provide food and meals. The Agency also increased the amount of food and delivery cycle for emergency food providers unaffected by the storm and willing to provide services to the impacted communities.

About the Mayor's Office of Food Policy

The Office of the Food Policy Coordinator (OFPC) was established by Mayor Bloomberg in partnership with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn in 2007. The OFPC is responsible for advancing the City's efforts to increase access to and awareness about healthy food; promote food security; and oversee the City's work to improve the sustainability of its food system. In this capacity, the OFPC works to reduce programmatic overlap, improve interagency communication, engage stakeholders, and strengthen public-private partnerships.

About Food Bank For New York City

Food Bank For New York City recognizes 30 years as the city's major hunger-relief organization working to end food poverty throughout the five boroughs. As the city's hub for integrated food poverty assistance, Food Bank tackles the hunger issue on three fronts — food distribution, income support and nutrition education — all strategically guided by its research. Through its network of community-based member programs citywide, Food Bank helps provide 400,000 free meals a day for New Yorkers in need. Food Bank's hands-on nutrition education program in the public schools reaches thousands of children, teens and adults. Income support services including food stamps, free tax assistance for the working poor and the Earned Income Tax Credit put millions of dollars back in the pockets of low-income New Yorkers, helping them to achieve greater dignity and independence. 94% of donations go directly toward food distribution, acquisition and programs in all five boroughs of New York City. Learn how you can help at foodbanknyc.org.

About City Harvest

Now serving New York City for more than 30 years, City Harvest (www.cityharvest.org) is the world's first food rescue organization, dedicated to feeding the city's hungry men, women, and children. This year, City Harvest will collect more than 42 million pounds of excess food from all segments of the food industry, including restaurants, grocers, corporate cafeterias, manufacturers, and farms. This food is then delivered free of charge to some 600 community food programs throughout New York City by a fleet of trucks and bikes. City Harvest helps feed the more than one million New Yorkers that face hunger each year.

About the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to innovative public-private partnerships throughout NYC's five boroughs.. One hundred percent of donations in response to Hurricane Sandy are being dispersed to relief efforts and organizations. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, contributions helped to support the supply and transport

of emergency needs including hot food, toiletries, baby supplies, cleaning materials, warm clothing and medications for New Yorkers. The Mayor's Fund is now focused on longer-term rebuilding and restoration efforts, including sponsoring a network of housing counselors and legal service providers to help residents, mold awareness trainings and treatment in homes, and programs for nonprofit organizations and local businesses affected by the hurricane. For more information go to www.nyc.gov and follow the Fund on Twitter @NYCMayorsFund.

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