



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 of Agriculture

SUBJECT: Announcing the 2019 Feds Feed Families Food Drive

Hello, Federal Workforce Family –

It's that time of year again, when we kick off the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Feds Feed Families Food Drive, a voluntary effort by Federal employees to collect and donate food for those in need. This year, our drive begins on June 26 and runs through August 9, 2019. USDA will lead the campaign again with the support of the Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCO) Council and our Department and Agency partners.

Each year, millions of Americans turn to food banks and food pantries for emergency food assistance. During summer months, demand increases significantly, but donations decline.

Through Feds Feed Families, we can all come together as a federal family and do what I made USDA's number 1 priority, to "do right and feed everyone."

With this being the 10th anniversary of Feds Feed Families, USDA has decided to run the campaign differently. Instead of reporting out the pounds of food donated by agency or department, USDA will report out one metric across the federal government every Friday. Federal employees will no longer focus on competing with one another for the most pounds of food collected, and instead focus on our mission of coming together to help those in most need.

Since 2009, thanks to the remarkable generosity of Federal employees, the Feds Feed Families Food Drive has collected over 88 million pounds of food for recipients throughout the United States. Last year alone, more than 8.3 million pounds were donated and provided to food banks and pantries.

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 of Agency, from headquarter and sub-agencies to regional and field offices. The Champions coordinate the collection logistics for the units, ensuring that all goods collected are weighed, reported, and delivered to their destinations.

Please e-mail the name of your Agency Chair and Champion by Monday, July 1, 2019, to the National Program leader at [fedsfeedfamilies@usda.gov](mailto:fedsfeedfamilies@usda.gov). Information about upcoming events, including training and a kick-off event, will be posted soon at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/initiatives/feds-feed-families>.

Thank you for supporting Feds Feed Families, and I am confident that again this year, we will "Do Right and Feed Everyone."