Before the pandemic, one in five people was at risk of hunger in San Francisco and Marin. As the crisis has unfolded, it has become clear: food insecurity in our communities is rising.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 have forced many of our neighbors to step into our pantry lines for the first time. In April, we saw a surge in demand.

In response, we raced to transform how the Food Bank operates, created new programming that had prioritized the safety of staff, volunteers, and participants. With the support of donors, volunteers, and corporate partners, we opened Pop-up Pantries across San Francisco and Marin, started delivering weekly groceries to seniors sheltering at home, helped thousands apply for CalFresh (food stamps), and advocated for P-EBT and other benefits.

As the months wear on, the need persists. We are now distributing food to nearly double the amount of households compared to before the pandemic. COVID-19 has shone a spotlight on the long-standing inequities and racial injustices in our society; it has forced thousands in our communities to live with prolonged, forced job losses. Like many, we hoped this crisis would be temporary, that we would already be moving into recovery. Instead, the Food Bank is now planning to meet the long-term, sustained need for all.

* foodlocator.sfmfoodbank.org

San Francisco, Mid-March-June, SF Human Services Agency
Marin, March-June, Employment Development Department
COVID-19 RESPONSE BY THE NUMBERS*

Before the pandemic
32,000
HOUSEHOLDS
RELIED ON US EVERY WEEK
Now
WE DISTRIBUTE FOOD FOR
60,000
EVERY WEEK

Before the pandemic
855,000 MEALS
EVERY WEEK
Now
WE DISTRIBUTE
1,300,000 MEALS
EVERY WEEK

Before the pandemic
4.1M LBS
OF FOOD PER MONTH
Now
WE DELIVER
6.3M LBS
EVERY MONTH

Before the pandemic
260 SENIORS
AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Now
12,000
GET A BAG OF GROCERIES
AT THEIR DOOR

Before the pandemic
275+ FOOD PANTRIES
IN THE NETWORK
Now
300+ PANTRIES
including
28 EMERGENCY POP-UPS
MANY OF WHICH ARE DRIVE-THRU

SHELTER-IN-PLACE
About 1/3 of our 275 PANTRIES
closed for safety reasons

1ST POP-UP PANTRIES
Serving 5-10x the size of
our average weekly pantry

PANTRY-AT-HOME
LAUNCHED
delivering groceries to
seniors sheltering at home

CalFresh team fielded
9-10x more calls for
application help

DOUBLED our distribution

Nearly TRIPLED the need
for weekly volunteers—
from 1,200 to 3,200

Traffic to the online
Find Food page +2,500%

Every day, it takes
35 TRUCKS to deliver food
to the pantry network

This week,
1.4M MEALS
distributed

Before the pandemic
WE DISTRIBUTED
4.1M LBS
OF FOOD PER MONTH
Now
WE DELIVER
6.3M LBS
EVERY MONTH

Before the pandemic
WE HOME-DELIVERED TO
260 SENIORS
AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Now
12,000
GET A BAG OF GROCERIES
AT THEIR DOOR

Before the pandemic
275+ FOOD PANTRIES
IN THE NETWORK
Now
300+ PANTRIES
including
28 EMERGENCY POP-UPS
MANY OF WHICH ARE DRIVE-THRU

* Numbers reflect July 2019 – July 2020