



• ALASKA •
ANTI-HUNGER
NETWORK CONFERENCE
ANCHORAGE, AK

CONFERENCE AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2025

FOOD BANK
of ALASKA





Alaska Anti-Hunger Network Conference

EVENT SCHEDULE

September 17-18, 2025 | Food Bank of Alaska

17 WEDNESDAY

8am Arrival Registration Breakfast

9am Opening and Welcome

10-10:45am Breakout Sessions

- Food Banking 101
- Food Bank and Policy
- SeaShare - The Seafood Industry's Response to Hunger
- Fundraising in Uncertain Times

11-11:50am Breakout Sessions

- What to Expect When You are Expecting a Site Visit
- DVR Windmills: Building Awareness, Shifting Perspectives
- Food is Medicine
- Storytelling and Appeals that Inspire Action

12-1pm Meet and Greet Lunch (Provided)

1:15-2pm Breakout Sessions

- Cooperative Purchase Program (Co-Op)
- Feeding Alaska's Future: Child Nutrition Programs
- SNAP Eligibility Determinations
- Helping the Helper: The Importance of Self-Care in Direct Services

2:15-3pm Breakout Sessions

- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Managing Volunteer Resources
- Challenge to Solution: A Partner Workshop
- Food Safety for the Anti-Hunger Network

3:15-4pm Plenary: State of the Network

4-4:15pm Closing Message

18 THURSDAY

8am Breakfast

9-9:50am ● In-person Annual CSFP Training
● Division of Public Assistance's Fee Agent Program

10-11:30am ● In-person Annual TEFAP Training
● AI Primer for the Network

11:30-1pm Lunch (Food Bank Cookout)

1-3pm Alaska Food Coalition Fall Gathering

5-7pm Business After Hours and Hunger Action Champion Awards



BIG SU 2nd floor, south conference room

KENAI 1st floor, next to entrance

MAIN 1st floor, main stage area in warehouse

YUKON 2nd floor, larger conference room

DAY 1 10-10:50am

BIG SU

Food Banking 101: Understanding How Food Gets to Those in Need

Anthony Reinert | Rebecca Guyer



Curious about how food moves from donors to the plates of those who need it most? This session provides an inside look at the world of food banking, including the critical roles played by local food banks, Feeding America, and the USDA. Participants will learn how food is sourced, sorted, and distributed, as well as how programs and partnerships work together to combat food insecurity across Alaska and the nation. Whether you're new to the field or looking to deepen your understanding, this session will give you a clear picture of how food banking works from start to finish.

KENAI

Food Bank and Policy

Rachael Miller | Grace Heglund-Lohman



Hear from Food Bank of Alaska's Advocacy Team as they share strategies to develop anti-hunger policy initiatives. We'll cover questions like "What is policy work? Why should a Food Bank do it? How can everyone be an anti-hunger advocate?" Bring your own questions, this session includes a short presentation and time for discussion.

MAIN

SeaShare- The Seafood Industry's Response to Hunger

Hannah Lindoff, Executive Director for SeaShare



This session will provide an overview of SeaShare and our programs to combat food insecurity in Alaska through partnerships with the Alaska seafood industry. SeaShare has distributed almost 300,000 lbs. of Alaska seafood to Alaska food banks and feeding programs in the past year thanks to the Seafood Food Security and Processing Sector Resiliency grant. We continue to explore avenues to move more local seafood, including products, into hunger relief organizations and look forward to an interactive session with attendees.

YUKON

Fundraising in Uncertain Times (and the Importance of a Simple Plan)

Daniel Bentle, Chief Philanthropy Officer



With rising economic pressures, impacts to federal funding sources, and tightening budgets, the fundraising climate is becoming increasingly uncertain. This session will review simple strategies and tactics for navigating the uncertain waters ahead and look at a simple, practical framework and approach for staying organized and on track with your fundraising efforts throughout the year.

DAY 1 11-11:50am

BIG SU

What to Expect When you are Expecting a Site Visit

Rebecca Guyer, Director of Programs | Mel Buhr, Partner Services Manager



Curious about how food moves from donors to the plates of those who need it most? This session provides an inside look at the world of food banking, including the critical roles played by local food banks, Feeding America, and the USDA. Participants will learn how food is sourced, sorted, and distributed, as well as how programs and partnerships work together to combat food insecurity across Alaska and the nation. Whether you're new to the field or looking to deepen your understanding, this session will give you a clear picture of how food banking works from start to finish.

KENAI

DVR Windmills: Building Awareness, Shifting Perspectives

Stacey and Lynne are with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

This session will examine stereotypes associated with disabilities, and to explore biases. It is to understand attitudes about people with disabilities and the effect they can have on our relationships with each other.

MAIN

Food is Medicine-New Projects

Rachael Miller, Food Bank of Alaska | Karol Fink, Department of Health



Food Bank of Alaska and the Department of Health have collaborated on a 10-year project to better understand and grow nutrition incentive programs such as Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and SNAP Double Bucks. This session will provide a project overview of the new Food Is Medicine initiative, examples of programs from around the country, and ways to get involved.

YUKON

Storytelling and Appeals that Inspire Giving

Katie Schrooten, Marketing and Communications Manager



Stories move people in ways statistics never will. This session will explore how to identify and tell authentic stories that connect donors to your mission and inspire generosity. Participants will learn practical tips for identifying the right stories, framing them with dignity and impact, and weaving them into donor-facing communications. You'll leave with examples and tools to bring your fundraising stories to life.

DAY 1 1:15-2pm

BIG SU

Maximizing Your Impact: Understanding the Co-Op Program

Rebecca Guyer, Director of Programs | Anthony Reinert, Chief Programs Officer



The Co-Op Program helps partner organizations stretch their resources and provide more food to those in need. In this session, learn how you can purchase food from the Food Bank of Alaska in large quantities—whether it's for your food pantry, emergency food storage, or other community programs. Discover how to participate, place orders, and plan distributions to ensure your clients receive consistent, high-quality support. This session is ideal for both new and experienced partners who want to make the most of the Co-Op Program.

KENAI

Feeding Alaska's Future: Child Nutrition Programs Across the State

Child Nutrition Team: Gillian McPherson | Jane'e Wilson | Enrique Ramirez



The Food Bank of Alaska's Child Nutrition Team is committed to ensuring that children across the state have access to nutritious meals, no matter where they live. In this session, learn about the range of programs they operate, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and the innovative Meals to You (MTY) initiative. Discover how these programs address food insecurity, reach rural and under-served communities, and make a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of Alaska's children.

MAIN

DPA SNAP Application Processing through an Eligibility Technician's Eyes

Chrissy Ross, Eligibility Technician for Division of Public Assistance

A review of the Application for Services (Gen-50c) highlighting key information to capture for SNAP case processing. A brief look behind the curtain into how an application is worked. 30-minute presentation followed by 15 minutes of Q&A.

YUKON

Helping the Helper: The Importance of Self-Care in Direct Service

Hannah Hill, Executive Director for Bread Line Stone Soup



Anti-hunger work is difficult, requiring both stamina & compassion. To thrive personally & professionally, direct service workers must practice consistent self-care to avoid burnout. Learn the signs of burnout, our tools against it & the power of community care in this big work.

DAY 1 2:15-3pm

BIG SU

VOAD

Jenni Ragland, Service Extension & Emergency Disaster Services Director for The Salvation Army Alaska Division | Alan Budahl, Executive Director for Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

This session will highlight the role of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) partners in strengthening emergency planning and response across Alaska. Together, we'll explore how collaboration, resource sharing, and coordinated communication can help communities prepare for and recover from disasters more effectively.

KENAI

Managing Volunteer Resources

Sid Rajan, Manager of Volunteer Resources



Volunteer needs are growing, but finding and keeping reliable help is harder than ever. Recruiting volunteers means more than just filling slots, it is about understanding barriers, clarifying what we really mean by recruitment, and building strategies that last. Participants will walk away from this discussion with actionable ideas for bringing in and keeping the volunteers they need.

MAIN

Challenge to Solution: A Partner Workshop

Mel Buhr, Partner Services Manager



Running a food pantry or community program comes with unique challenges—from limited resources to growing demand. This highly interactive workshop creates space for partners to share the real-world obstacles they face and work together to explore solutions. Through guided discussion and group activities, participants will collaborate, exchange ideas, and leave with practical strategies they can take back to their programs. Come ready to contribute, learn from your peers, and help strengthen our network by finding solutions together.

YUKON

Food Safety: Keeping Your Pantry and Neighbors Safe

Rebecca Guyer, Director of Programs



Food safety is a critical part of serving your community. This session will cover best practices for handling, storing, and distributing food safely in your pantry or program. Learn how to prevent spoilage, maintain proper temperature controls, and reduce the risk of contamination, while ensuring that the food you provide is safe and nutritious for your neighbors. This session also includes an exam for participants who need to obtain their food safety certificate. Participants will leave with practical tips and resources to maintain high food safety standards in any setting.

DAY 2 9-9:50am

KENAI

DPA Fee Agent Program Overview

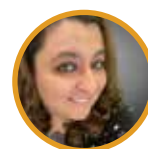
Michelle Cranford, Public Assistance Analyst II for Division of Public of Assistant

Discuss the fee agent recruitment and selection process, the role and responsibilities of a fee agent, fee agent agreement and training requirements, review various fee agent forms including report forms and payments.

MAIN

CSFP Partner Training

Chelsea Donohue, Manager of Senior Programs



The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides monthly food boxes to income-eligible seniors, helping them access nutritious foods and stretch their budgets. This required training is designed for all partners currently participating in CSFP. We will review program requirements, reporting responsibilities, distribution best practices, and compliance guidelines to ensure smooth and successful operations. Partners will leave with the tools and knowledge needed to confidently administer CSFP and better serve Alaska's seniors.

10-11:30am

KENAI

AI Primer for the Network

Anthony Reinert, Chief Programs Officer



Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly changing the way organizations work, and food banks are no exception. This session will introduce the basics of AI and explore how it can be applied within the anti-hunger network. Learn how AI tools can support data analysis, improve efficiency, and strengthen communication—while also discussing ethical considerations and limitations. Designed for those new to the topic, this session will provide a clear and accessible overview of AI, along with practical examples of how it may help food banks and partner programs better serve their neighbors.

MAIN

TEFAP Partner Training

Rebecca Guyer, Director of Programs

Sue Lampert, USDA Foods Program Coordinator/Alaska Department of Education & Early Development



The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a vital resource that supplies nutritious USDA foods to neighbors facing hunger. This required training is for all partners currently participating in TEFAP. The session will cover program rules and regulations, reporting and record-keeping, distribution procedures, and compliance expectations. Partners will gain a clear understanding of their responsibilities and learn best practices to ensure TEFAP foods are handled and distributed safely, effectively, and in line with federal guidelines.



MAIN

Thursday, September 18 • 1-3pm



Alaska Food Coalition Fall Convening: Strategizing for Advocacy and Impact

Rachael Miller | Grace Heglund-Lohman

Join us for the Alaska Food Coalition's Annual Fall Convening as we take a fresh look at how we communicate, collaborate, and advocate for food security across the state. This session will go beyond traditional planning to explore how coalition members talk about our work, what language resonates across communities, and how we can make advocacy resources more accessible.

With a focus on state and federal strategies—including preparations for the Juneau fly-in and insights into the evolving political landscape—we'll lay the groundwork for a more unified, strategic, and inclusive approach to advocacy in the coalition's 30th year and beyond. Everyone is welcome at this session, whether you're a longtime member, newly engaged, or just curious about our work.

ANCHORAGE RESTAURANT WEEK

OCT 20-28

DINE OUT
AGAINST HUNGER

During Restaurant Week, participating restaurants will donate a portion of proceeds to support our fight against hunger. By dining out, you help raise awareness and make a difference.



Scan QR code or visit
foodbankofalaska.org to view
participating restaurants and donate.



**FOOD BANK
of ALASKA**

Food Bank of Alaska is excited to host this month's Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours in our warehouse!

Enjoy an evening of live music, local beer and wine, and delicious food as you connect with fellow business leaders and colleagues.

Explore interactive booths showcasing community partnerships, or take a moment to join in some volunteer work at the salmon can labeling station while mingling with other attendees.

The night will conclude with a special presentation on the main stage, where we'll honor this year's Hunger Action Champions for their unwavering commitment to fighting food insecurity in Alaska.



**ANCHORAGE CHAMBER
of COMMERCE**



**FOOD BANK
of ALASKA**