

Nourish Alaska's Future Capital Project

Before COVID-19 almost 100,000 Alaskans could not count on having enough to eat. That number included more than 33,000 children – nearly 1 in 5 Alaskan kids. Because of Alaska's growth, persistent need, and some tough times, Food Bank of Alaska had already outgrown the warehouse we'd occupied for 25 years before the pandemic.

Now, with COVID-19 and the suffering it has caused, the need has soared. Feeding America's *Map the Meal Gap* estimates that 125,650 Alaskans were food insecure in 2020. The number of children without dependable access to meals mushroomed to 47,800, more than 1 in 4. We could not possibly have scaled up as we did to support struggling Alaskans without borrowing additional warehouse space to do things like pack and distribute more than 21,000 emergency food boxes for hungry families.

You can help us raise \$500,000 to move to a bigger and better equipped warehouse this summer and *Nourish Alaska's Future* – for as long as any Alaskan is hungry.

Project - With the *Nourish Alaska's Future* project, we have purchased an 85,000-square-foot, more efficient warehouse that we are now remodeling and equipping. When we move this summer, we will have:

- triple the capacity to receive, store, and ship food and a more efficient storage system,
- greater capacity to respond to emergencies as they arise,
- an area for staging and shipping to rural Alaska to reach more communities where the need is acute, with 30% or more of children in some areas going without enough to eat,
- a 12,000-square-foot combined, energy-efficient freezer/cooler, so we can accept, store and distribute more healthy, fresh food and minimize waste,
- dedicated workspace, so volunteers can stay socially distant, help when needed throughout the week without interfering with operations, and respond to opportunities as they arise,
- a dedicated, well-designed "shopping" area for partner food organizations,
- room to re-package bulk food that we can't accept now and preserve fresh food that we can't always distribute quickly enough, and
- enough space to bring the community and partners together to address hunger's underlying causes.

Now is the time to help us boost our capital campaign over the top. Will you help us raise \$500,000 this spring to finish the campaign? Your gift will help us reach our goal for community support and remodel and equip our new home.

Food Bank of Alaska's Vision: A hunger-free Alaska