

COVID-19 Newsletter

City of Atlantic City



CRDA & Partners Funding Food Services May 17, 2020

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) approved \$300,000 in funding support for various food services in Atlantic City in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The food distribution is a collaboration between the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, CRDA, the City of Atlantic City, AFL-CIO, Local 54 and other private donors. This is a first-of-its-kind partnership between State and local governments, the casino industry, and union representatives, which includes Local 54 providing boots-on-the-ground coordination with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and the AFL-CIO providing both financial and

volunteer support. While CRDA is allocating \$300,000 to the effort, private donors include Joe Jingoli from Hard Rock Hotel Casino Atlantic City: \$50,000; Jim Allen from Hard Rock International: \$25,000; Morris Bailey from Resorts Atlantic City: \$25,000; Charles Wowkanech from AFL-CIO: \$10,000, with additional private funding being pursued.

This new funding provides additional food assistance for casino workers and Atlantic City residents. The food distribution will be on a first come first serve basis for Atlantic City residents and casino workers. Registration is required at the Community Food Bank website, <https://cfbnj.org/>. The

distribution will be drive-up only. People will not be getting out of their cars.

The food distribution initiative will extend for approximately 2 months with the goal of holding two food distribution events each month (May and June) and to distribute 9,000 meal kits per month. Each kit contains 12 servings of food, including fresh produce.



Beaches Open With Restrictions

Governor Phil Murphy has authorized the opening of public and private beaches with restrictions for the Jersey Shore. City officials will coordinate the best practices to be used for all to enjoy the Atlantic City beaches and boardwalk. The restrictions include:

- No special events

- Capacity and admission limitations
- Six feet demarcations in certain areas
- Public outreach campaign on social distancing restrictions
- Sanitization requirements
- Boardwalk restaurants must continue to operate for take-out and delivery only
- Playgrounds, rides, arcades, games, water fountains, picnic areas, and water play equipment remain closed.

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Strategic Policy Group Created For Reopening Atlantic City After COVID-19 Crisis

Mayor Marty Small announced the creation of a Strategic Policy Group that will spearhead the city's efforts to prepare the destination for reopening and recovery. Their work will lay the groundwork for when Atlantic City has made significant improvement in containing COVID-19.

The policy group is comprised of leaders and stakeholders from both the public and private sectors led by Mayor Small along with representatives from the City of Atlantic City, the Atlantic City Police Department, the Atlantic City Fire Department, the Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, New Jersey Casino Control Commission, New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, Atlantic City Board of Education, New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, Atlantic City Chamber of

Commerce, Atlantic City Casino Association, and Atlantic City Boardwalk Merchants Association.

"The policy group will address challenges and opportunities related to a safe, sustainable, and gradual reopening of Atlantic City", said Mayor Small. "Getting employees back to work and reopening commerce will require that certain essential services and resources are in place."

The policy group will be guided by the following priorities:

- Safety measures for re-welcoming visitors
- Best practices for workplace safety
- Consistent communication
- Connecting individuals to jobs
- Concentration on the city's most vulnerable

- Complement federal and state efforts
- Public transportation
- Liability
- Ability to support physical distancing in a variety of settings, and
- Ability to monitor and protect through testing

The policy group began meeting the first week of April and will continue for the foreseeable future.

Food Assistance Benefits For Eligible Students

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' plan to provide \$248 million in special food assistance benefits to nearly 600,000 New Jersey children who normally receive free or reduced-price school meals has been approved by the federal government. The plan is part of the State's response to COVID-19 school closures.

Under the plan, New Jersey's special Pandemic-EBT benefits will be provided to recipients of the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and non-SNAP households with children who normally receive free or reduced-price school meals. With federal approval in

hand, the Department of Human Services will begin implementing the plan.

The plan will provide each eligible student with \$416.10 to help with nutritional support during the time that schools have been closed during the pandemic. No application is necessary to receive this benefit. Human Services is working with schools to identify students who were receiving free or reduced school meals. Eligible students already participating in SNAP will receive the Pandemic-EBT on their household's existing Families First card. All other Pandemic-EBT eligible households will be mailed a P-EBT card. Human Services

expects these benefits to be issued no later than June.

NJ SNAP provides money directly to individuals and families who need help affording groceries. Funds are directly loaded onto an electronic benefits card each month, and SNAP is accepted at most grocery stores and bodegas.

Residents can visit njhelps.org to learn more and apply for food assistance and other benefits.

Important Safety Tips to Remember

In order to keep you, your family, and everyone safe during this pandemic, remember to follow these simple safety tips:

- If you can, stay home.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds.
- Maintain social distance of at least six feet.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Sneeze and cough into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect regularly used surfaces.
- Stay home if you do not feel well.
- If you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care.
- Wear a face cover

COVID-19 Testing Sites for Atlantic City Residents

The City of Atlantic City is offering free COVID-19 testing to symptomatic Atlantic City residents. Testing is by appointment only at two locations.

A drive thru site is stationed in the area of the Surf Stadium located at 545 N. Albany Avenue. This site is only open on Wednesdays and Fridays. The individual being tested does not have to be driving, they can be a passenger. Occupants are to keep their windows up until instructed. The entry point is at the intersection of Albany and Filbert Avenues.

The walk-up testing site is located in the 800 block of Atlantic Avenue in the surface parking lot of the Showboat Hotel. This site is only

open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The entry point is on Delaware Avenue. Individuals can be driven to the site, but those being tested must be able to walk through the testing area without assistance.

Reliance Medical Group, a primary healthcare provider based in Northfield, is conducting the medical testing.

Both sites are open from 10 AM to 2 PM. In order to be tested, the individual must:

- Have a COVID-19 test prescription from their doctor (if an individual is symptomatic and does not possess a prescription, a Reliance physician on-site

can provide the prescription),

- Read and accept the consent form (available in the appointment portal),
- Have an appointment,
- Have a copy of the appointment confirmation,
- Have identification proving the individual is an Atlantic City resident.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, visit the City of Atlantic City website (www.cityofatlanticcity.org), click "COVID-19 Testing", and follow the prompts. If further assistance is needed, call 609-318-6990.

Hot Meals for Seniors Schedule

The "Hot Meals for Seniors" initiative began three weeks ago. Residents living within 11 senior living facilities are receiving one meal, twice a week. The initiative will run through Saturday, May 23.

Meals will be delivered each week on the following schedule.

Mondays from 1 PM to 2:30 PM to the New York Avenue Apartments and Elliott House.

Mondays from 3 PM to 4:30 PM to Baltic Plaza Apartments and the Atlantic City Townhouse.

Tuesdays from 1 PM to 2:30 PM to the Best of Life Park.

Tuesdays from 3 PM to 4:30 PM to Community Haven Senior Citizens Housing.

Wednesdays from 1 PM to 2:30 PM to the New York Avenue Apartments, Elliott House, Baltic Plaza Apartments, and Atlantic City Townhouse.

Wednesdays from 3 PM to 4:30 PM to Charles P. Jeffries Tower, Inlet Tower, and the John P. Whittington Senior Living Center.

Thursdays from 1 PM to 2:30 PM to the Best of Life Park and Community Haven Senior Citizens Housing.

Thursdays from 3 PM to 4:30 PM to Altman Terrace and Shore Park Hi-Rise.

Fridays from 1 PM to 2:30 PM to Charles P. Jeffries Tower.

Fridays from 3 PM to 4:30 PM to Inlet Tower and the John P. Whittington Senior Living Center.

Saturdays from 1 PM to 2:30 PM to Shore Park Hi-Rise.



Saturdays from 3 PM to 4:30 PM to Altman Terrace.

Ways to Stay Informed

The City of Atlantic City is diligently working to keep everyone safe and healthy during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. All city employees are currently working a modified schedule allowing our employees to remain healthy. City Hall remains closed; however, employees are still available to provide needed service.

City of Atlantic City- 833.359.0084 / www.cityofatlanticcity.org /    @AtlanticCityGov

Atlantic City Police Department- 609.347.5780 / www.acpolice.org /  @AtlanticCityPolice /   @AtlanticCityPD

Atlantic City Fire Department- 609.347.5590 /  @acfdlocal198 /  @AtlanticCityFD

Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management- 609.347.5466 /  @AtlanticCityOEM

Tip411- Receive email and/or text message alerts from the police department. Go to <https://www.tip411.com/groups> to begin the process.

Code Red Alert System- Receive information from your local emergency response team in the event of emergencies or critical community alerts. Go to www.cityofatlanticcity.org and locate the Code Red tab on the homepage to begin the process.

Message from the Mayor

As we continue to adjust to life and modify our day-to-day routines while we address the COVID-19 pandemic, please know that the City of Atlantic City is working diligently in collaboration with various agencies and organizations to ensure your safety, health and well-being.

We are also working to address the serious economic issues facing the City. Never before have we been forced to deal with the circumstances we are now facing. However, I am confident that Atlantic City's strength and resilience will once again prove that we are a City united and a shining example of community spirit and pride!

In the days and weeks to follow, I ask that you be patient and observe the health guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention— practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently, cover your face when in public, and stay home as much as possible. (And please call to check on your neighbors.)

Also, once again I applaud our frontline heroes (emergency personnel, healthcare workers and essential employees) for their collective efforts to save and sustain lives. They are appreciated more than words can adequately express.

Remember, Atlantic City is strong! Together we will get through this!

Yours in service to the community,

Marty Small, Sr.

