



**Illinois**  
Voluntary Organizations  
Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

## **COVID-19 Response Coordination Call**

*Purpose: To provide the opportunity to communicate needs and coordinate relief efforts with fellow Illinois VOAD members. Organizational needs and resources are **highlighted**.*

Thursday, April 23, 2020

### **Government Partners**

#### **Jackson County Emergency Management**

- Contact Orval Rowe
- **Primarily looking for gowns and cleaning supplies**
- Have received shipment of hand sanitizer and other supplies ordered

#### **LaSalle County Emergency Management**

- Contact Connie Brooks
- **Primarily looking for gowns.** Ordered but cannot get them.
- Using ponchos as an alternative for disposable gowns.
- First responder PPE distribution yesterday with 7,000 pieces handed out. 15,000 pieces distributed to date with more expected next week.

#### **FEMA Region V**

- Contact is Kim Johnson
- Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) is still at a Level 2.
- Assisting with ESF6 Mass Care support, including food bank and food supply issues
- Supporting Long-term Recovery groups

### **Community Organizations Active in Disasters**

#### **Northeast Illinois COAD**

- Contact Joy Medrano
- Check-in call yesterday with six Chicagoland counties. Meeting every two weeks.
- Working on Alternative Care placement for homeless and asymptomatic individuals

#### **Southern Illinois COAD**

- Contact Ed Hoke
- Call today at 5:30 PM
- COAD is newly formed and any VOAD partners who can provide services in the southern 13 counties are invited to participate

#### **Kankakee Illinois COAD**

- Meeting this Friday at 1:00 PM with on-going bi-weekly meeting
- Invite any VOAD partners who can provide services in Kankakee and Iroquois counties

## VOAD Members

### American Red Cross

- Contact is Charlotte Hazel
- Virtually supporting municipalities and partners everywhere possible
- Referring potential partner support to VOAD and COADs
- Working with Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation to provide blankets and surgical masks
- Investigating requests for feeding and laundry support
- Standing by to assist wherever and however possible based on virtual work arrangements

### Team Rubicon

- Contact Ashley Slover for Northern Illinois
- Contact Lucy Loftus for Central Illinois
- Supporting food operations with Catholic Charities in Chicagoland area
- Supporting PPE donations in the Chicagoland area
- Supporting some logistics at McCormick Place Alternate Care site
- Members or Partners who need help with food distribution can submit their request at <https://bit.ly/2KcQF5F> and Team Rubicon will assess their ability to help

### Society of St. Vincent de Paul

- Contact is Joe Butkovich for Diocese of Joliet
- Contact is Susan Wiland for Rockford Council
- Statewide assistance with remote food deliveries and food pantry distributions
- Food pantries starting to run low on supplies

### Feeding Illinois

- Contact is Steve Ericson
- **Biggest concern right now is shelf-stable food supplies**
  - Primary focus on shelf-stable foods, but looking at dairy, produce, and some protein supplies
  - Some food pantries running low. Food banks are still okay for now.
  - *Recommendations for food drives are included at the end of this document.*
- Food banks are seeing 70% more people seeking assistance with 40% of people first-time users
- **Financial donations are still the best way to help and allows local food pantries, local food banks, or Feeding Illinois to get the most benefit**
  - Looking at FEMA program for reimbursements when buying food
  - Some challenges with buying food because lead times are 4-6 weeks out
  - Monetary donations through 4/30 via:
    - <https://app.mobilecause.com/e/jhngMA?vid=7bj04>
    - Texting FEEDIL to 91999
    - Send a check to: Feeding Illinois, 273 Dearborn Court, Geneva, IL, 60134-3587
  - Donations on 5/1 or after:
    - Send a check to: Feeding Illinois, 273 Dearborn Court, Geneva, IL, 60134-3587
    - Donate to any food banks directly via their respective websites (<https://www.feedingillinois.org/index.php/contact>)
- New USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program looks promising with deliveries starting May 15
- Volunteer needs have leveled off

### Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ

- Contact in Roger Dart
- **Making face masks and need bulk quantities of either 1/8" round or 1/4" to 3/8" flat elastic straps**
- Raised \$5,890 for Crystal Lake Food Pantry

**Illinois Baptist State Association**

- Contact is Butch Porter
- Supplied gowns and masks to Green Tree Assisted Living in Mt. Vernon, IL

**Rotary International**

- Contact is Joe Miller
- Standby mode ready to assist anyone in need

**Information Technology Disaster Resource Center**

- Contact is Todd Clausen
- Received a substantial grant to provide internet connectivity nationwide
- If communities have students who still need internet access to complete their online coursework, please submit a request at <https://itdrc.org/projectconnect>

**Collaborative Healthcare Urgency Group**

- Contact is Tom Smith
- Assisting healthcare providers with information and resources

**The Salvation Army**

- This week, the Salvation Army in Joliet partnered with Northern Illinois Food Bank and United Way of Will County to serve 275 families, about 1,000 people.
- Beginning early this week in Chicago, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) began stopping in front of a SA facility known as the Red Shield Center. This is not a normal stop. This was done so residents may pick up food baskets. New families within the neighborhood are now being served.

**Next Coordination Call: Thursday, May 7 at 9:30 AM CDT**  
**Contact information will be sent to members and partners via e-mail.**

## Food Drives

For any type of collections or solicitations, any of the following SHELF-STABLE items would be great:

- Cereals, including Oatmeal
- Canned Tuna, Chicken, or other Meats
- Canned Fruits, including Applesauce - in Natural Juice preferred
- Canned Vegetables - Low Sodium preferred
- Peanut Butter
- Jams or Jellies
- Boxed Meals (e.g., Mac & Cheese, Helpers, Pasta or Rice Mixes)
- Pastas (e.g., Spaghetti, Egg Noodles, etc.)
- Soups, including Chili and Chowders - Canned or Dry Mixes
- Beans - Canned or Bagged (e.g., Baked, Kidney, Pinto, etc.)
- Canned Meals (e.g., Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, Beef Stew, etc.)
- Rice - Brown or White
- Cooking Oils - Canola or Olive preferred
- Juice - 100% juice preferred
- Protein Drinks - Liquid or Mixes
- Baking Mixes - Pancake & Waffle Mixes preferred
- Syrup
- Household Paper Products - Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Facial Tissues
- Personal Care Items - Shampoo, Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, etc.
- Disposable Diapers and Baby Wipes

Whenever possible, I strongly encourage these to go directly to the local community food pantry. If the closest food pantry is unknown, they can be found on that area food bank's websites or Feeding Illinois (i.e., Steve Ericson) can assist with locating one.