



FOOD BANK OF  
NORTH ALABAMA

The Warehouse and  
Food Bank will be  
closed

Monday  
February 17

74% OF AGENCIES  
SUBMITTED THEIR  
DECEMBER  
DISTRIBUTIONS  
DEMOGRAPHIC  
ON TIME!

**TO DO:**

Click Here to  
submit your  
monthly  
demographic  
report!

BE A  
SWEETHEART,  
SUBMIT YOUR  
JANUARY  
DISTRIBUTION  
REPORT BY  
FEBRUARY  
15TH!



# AGENCY NEWSLETTER

January 31, 2025

## must reads:

Partnership 2025

USDA Audit Wrap Up

Agreement Updates

## Food Safety Certification

## 2025 LAUNCH

### 2024 was all about communication.

Our goal for 2024 was to discover the most effective ways to communicate with our agency partners. Through various initiatives—such as our inaugural newsletter, transitioning email marketing providers, conducting polls, scheduling flexibility, reporting access, Hunger Summit, in-person visits, and phone calls—we have worked diligently to engage with all of our groups in a manner that best serves you. We appreciate everyone for embracing this challenge with us, offering valuable feedback, and remaining adaptable!

We believe that effective communication is essential for the success of any relationship, and we view our collaboration as a partnership based on open dialogue and trust. We are thrilled that by the end of 2025, we will have completed a full site survey cycle, allowing us to meet face-to-face with every one of our agency partners at least once!

### In 2025, we will continue to strengthen our foundation with a fresh emphasis on a new objective: **PARTNERSHIP**.

This year, we will delve into what it truly means to be one of our Agency Partners. Our objective is to define what distinguishes our Agency Partners in the battle against hunger in North Alabama, and to express our pride in each and every one of you!



## WHAT DO AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS SIGNIFY FOR:



### Community?

Agency Partners play a crucial role in ensuring equitable food access throughout North Alabama. Without our network of over 200 Agency Partners, many neighbors would lack a reliable source of food assistance. Additionally, neighbors trust that the food they receive from a FBNA Agency Partner has been thoroughly evaluated for quality, nutrition, and safety.



### Advocacy?

Change begins at the grassroots level, and the insights provided by Agency Partners offer a detailed and realistic view of community needs. Our team utilizes this information during meetings with local government officials to translate these needs from reports into actionable discussions at their doorstep, aiming to enhance awareness and secure both financial and legislative support.



### Agency Partners?

When an organization is recognized as an Agency Partner, they receive much more than just a title. They gain access to a diverse range of donated goods from local and national sources, state and federally funded assistance programs, training opportunities, and support from both fellow partners and the Food Bank staff.



### Food Bank of North Alabama?

Agency Partners serve as our eyes, ears, hands, and feet within the community. Our committed team relies on these partners to bring our vision to life. Whether it's distributing food, collaborating with store partners, gathering demographic data, crafting advocacy letters, or identifying gaps that need our attention, we depend on these partnerships in our ongoing battle against hunger and food insecurity.

**WHAT DOES A PARTNERSHIP WITH FBNA MEAN TO YOU?**

# FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

Feeding America mandates that all Partner Agencies undergo a specific level of food safety training tailored to their operations.

It is essential for all Agencies to ensure that at least one individual responsible for food procurement has completed the Food Safety for Food Banking Class and pass a 30-question test to obtain their certification. **Agencies who do not have a representative that has completed the test by the end of February will be contacted directly.**

Links to the Food Safety Slides & Test are available on our website under the Agency Zone as well as by clicking here:

[\*\*FOOD SAFETY MATERIAL\*\*](#)

[\*\*FOOD SAFETY FOR FOOD BANKING TEST\*\*](#)



## AGREEMENT-UPDATES

### PARTNER ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Congratulations to our partners who have been chosen for our FIRST Partner Advisory Council!**

**We will be unveiling the council members next month!**

We are presently reviewing our Agency Application, Agreement, Code of Conduct, Food Release Form, and other essential documents to ensure they comply with the most recent contracts and requirements from Feeding America and the USDA.

After making any necessary revisions and obtaining approval, we will conduct an audit of our agency files to determine which groups should be contacted to sign updated agreement forms.

This process will be particularly vital for groups with long-standing directors or those that have experienced changes without updating their agreements.

## USDA AUDIT WRAP-UP

This month, the USDA carried out their annual audit of both our warehouses, as well as four of our USDA Agency Partners. It was a terrific learning experience, and we will be sharing that knowledge with all of our USDA groups soon!

While we await the final reports, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to these teams for their patience, meticulousness, warm hospitality, and eagerness to learn!

Everyone contributed tremendously, and we are truly thankful for all your hard work!

**#150 Upper Sand Mountain Parish**

**#441 The Help Center**

**#694 First Seventh Day Adventist Church**

**#274 Northbrook : The Caring Center**

## THE WAREHOUSES ARE LOOKING SWEET

WITH LARGE QUANTITIES OF  
GOOD FOR THE EYES & IMMUNE SYSTEM  
HIGH IN VITAMINS A & C

**FRESH & LOCALLY GROWN  
SWEET POTATOES**

♥ Packaged in 5 lb bags  
(1 Full Pallet = est 125 bags)

♥ No Limits\* (HSV Only)

♥ No Shared Maintenance Fee

