



Meals on Wheels Durham COVID-19 Response Proposal

COVID-19 Response Summary

Based on recommendations from the CDC and The Durham Health Department, Meals on Wheels Durham decided to deliver five frozen meals once weekly every Monday, beginning April 6, 2020. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization delivered hot meals five times a week (Monday-Friday), utilizing the help of 250 volunteers weekly. Our modified delivery schedule will help mitigate risk by reducing the face to face interaction by 80% weekly while providing the same quality of service to our clients. Meals on Wheels Durham has seen a 42% increase in the number of clients requesting weekend meals in addition to the 5 weekly meals they receive. This increase highlights the needs of our most vulnerable and food insecure clients. Another request in our project is for fresh fruit. Fresh fruit is the top request we receive from clients, so we currently provide them two pieces of fresh fruit weekly.

An additional crucial component of the services we provide is that of client socialization. Continuing to speak with our clients' multiple times a week via phone calls, will help our clients stay connected with us and allow us to help if needed. The volunteers who continue to deliver on Mondays and those that help us with phone calls will have the opportunity to stay in touch with clients as well. Many have expressed a desire to make calls for clients on their typical routes because in many instances, they consider clients as part of their family. Allowing our volunteers to continue to serve in new facets benefits the volunteers and the clients; both groups are able to maintain a sense of normalcy, which will hopefully assist with their mental health during this stressful time for our nation.

5 Month Emergency Meal Request

Meals on Wheels Durham would like to help more seniors during this time. Based on our last comprehensive waitlist report, there were 389 individuals waiting to receive our services. We anticipate that the current number is closer to 450 due to the new applications we've received since the pandemic began. Our current proposal outlines the funding needed to feed 100 seniors from that waitlist. In order to efficiently maximize our reach in feeding the seniors in our community, Meals on Wheels Durham has had collaborative conversations with Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) and End Hunger Durham (EHD). As a result of those conversations, we have proposed to prioritize seniors living outside of communities supported by the Durham Housing Authority (DHA), who are not currently clients.

Individuals removed from the waitlist would begin receiving all of the services aforementioned above, including weekly meal delivery, check-in/ socialization calls, food for their pets if needed, and weekend meals if needed. We can have an immediate impact on the most vulnerable population during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal would be to continue serving the individuals after the pandemic. We believe the data from the COVID-19 Emergency Meal program would allow us to receive additional long term funding to address even more seniors from the waitlist. Seniors and their needs are often unseen;

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Meals on Wheels Durham will continue to connect clients to resources and advocate for their needs during this time and beyond.

Below is a 5-month cost breakdown to fund our proposal. However, many reports indicate another wave of infections is possible through the fall and winter months. As a result, we would also like funding considerations through at least the end of 2020. The total cost over that time frame would be \$112,000 or \$42,000 more than our 5-month proposal.

Emergency Meals 5 Month Budget

Item Description	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Daily Frozen Meals	\$4.22* *for the food alone	100 clients for 108 week days	\$45,576
Weekend Meals	\$6.10* for 2 weekend meals *for the food alone	100 clients for 22 weekends	\$13,420
Fresh Fruit Weekly	\$.90 for 2 pieces of fruit weekly	100 clients once a week for 22 weeks	\$1,980
Driver	\$14.50 an hour	8 hours a week for 22 weeks	\$2,552
10% Overhead	10% of \$63,528		\$6,353
		Total	\$69,881

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