



COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM

At a recent distribution, a client said, "I want to thank all who brought this program to Walton County. You have really helped me out a lot. My husband died on October 6 of last year and I do not work. This has really helped me and a lot of other people. Thank you so much." We found that many of the seniors we spoke to echoed this same message of gratitude and need.

Many of the clients our partners serve are aging seniors. These are older adults who find themselves struggling with the choice between spending limited funds on necessary medicines or food. Food is often the item they choose to sacrifice first. To help alleviate this choice between basic necessities, we operate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in a few of our Florida counties.

HOW CSFP WORKS

CSFP is a discretionary program funded each year through the federal appropriations process, so the program may only serve as many eligible participants as funding allows. CSFP provides food and administrative funds to states, which in turn store and transport the food to local agencies for distribution to low-income clients.

CSFP IMPROVES HEALTH

CSFP helps to combat the poor health conditions often found in food insecure seniors. According to National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data, food insecure seniors over the age of 60 are significantly more likely to have lower intakes of major vitamins, to be in poor or fair health, and to have limitations in activities of daily living.

Without proper nutrients, seniors are at risk for:

- Increased disability
- Decreased resistance to infections
- Deteriorating mental health
- Lengthening of hospital stays
- Diabetes

PROGRAM ACCESS & PARTICIPATION

Because the Commodity Supplemental Food Program can only serve as many communities and seniors as funding allows, the program is only available in limited geographic areas.

As a result, program operators have waiting lists of low-income seniors who would like to participate but cannot because of insufficient funds and caseload availability.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:

Seniors Enrolled in Program: 799
Seniors on Waitlist: 499

Anticipating starting CSFP program in our Alabama Service Area.



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My husband and I are here because we don't get food stamps. This is our only option other than food pantries, which aren't enough. If I didn't have my bag, I don't really know what I would do.

- CSFP Client

LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP

Visit our website
feedingthegulfcoast.org