

FEEDING THE FIRST RESPONDERS/NEEDY/SENIORS/AND UNDER SERVED

During these challenging times caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, many volunteer groups, organizations and private citizens wish to not only show their support to our front-line health care workers/ fire/police/and ems personnel but they also want to ensure our elderly, homeless and underserved populations are not forgotten either. One of the ways they express their gratitude and community spirit is to arrange for hot meals, sandwiches and snacks to be delivered to our hero's and populations of concern. This is a wonderful thing and very much appreciated however these volunteer groups, organizations and private citizens are reminded that by STATE LAW, the food items being provided must come from approved sources. An example of an approved source would be a restaurant, commercial kitchen or a facility licensed and inspected by a local or state health department. Home kitchens are NOT AN APPROVED source and any foods prepared in a home can not be legally provided to other groups regardless of whether it is donated, sold or given away. There are no health affiliated controls in foods prepared in the home such as correct cooking or hot and cold holding temperatures; sanitation procedures; source of raw ingredients; cross contamination prevention measures; health of the preparer and hygiene; or care in transportation.

This is a state requirement enforced through local health departments under Chapter 24 of the State Sanitary Code designed to guard against food borne illnesses. So please, for all of you wanting to assist in providing nourishment for our hero's and special populations and to lift their spirits by providing meals and snacks don't cook at home. Use our retail food facilities and at the same time support the local economy.