

Flathead Reservation Community Action (FRCA) Mobilizes Local Mutual Aid Network

Snoqweylmistr: "The Place Where You Do Your Best", 501(c)3
Arlee Community Development Corporation, 501(c)3, Food Sovereignty Program
Mission: Church (Polson)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flathead Nation, Montana, March 28, 2020—In response to food shortages and job loss caused by the current Covid-19 pandemic and public health emergency, a group of concerned community members and organizations has established Flathead Reservation Community Action (FRCA). This group is coordinating a growing network of volunteers to deliver groceries, cooked meals, cleaning supplies, fuel, wood, and medicines to Tribal and non-Tribal families and individuals in an effort to reduce exposure.

FRCA's current focus is on the food insecure elderly, immunocompromised, and those under quarantine orders from county/tribal public health or a medical provider. The group recognizes that during a public health emergency, many people may require extra help from their community.

To date FRCA has received over 60 requests and been able to serve 70% of those requests. Over 60 volunteers between Missoula and Whitefish have opted in to the FRCA network. The group seeks to expand in the coming weeks to include a food truck to distribute prepared meals.

FRCA is a grassroots group of individual community members. It cannot guarantee that all needs will be met, but is accumulating resources and funds to extend capacity. Priority is on keeping everyone safe—both those requesting help and volunteers. Volunteers acknowledge that there is still a risk involved with any interaction and the group does not accept any liability for transmitting a communicable disease. Because of the risk of transmission, volunteers are not able to provide rides.

FRCA's Safety and Sensitivity Guidelines are as follows:

- ★ We prioritize everyone's health and safety.
- ★ We will follow all CDC guidelines for social distancing while making deliveries to homes.
- ★ Volunteers will use Personal Protective Equipment while handling food, will leave deliveries at doorsteps, etc.
- ★ We recognize that social distancing may be perceived as culturally insensitive, but the priority remains on health and safety.
- ★ We seek to respect the dignity of all individuals making requests for assistance at this time. For some people there may be shame or discomfort in asking for help—we will be sensitive to those nuances.

FRCA is gathering material donations of food and supplies, as well as cash donations for food, supplies, and gas. Donations accepted via Venmo @Mission-Church-1. Please refer to the [Needs Request Form](#) or www.bit.ly/RequestFRCA to submit requests. Please refer to the [Volunteer Sign Up Form](#) or www.bit.ly/VolunteerFRCA to get involved.

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