



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the  
Assistant Secretary  
for Administration

Office of  
Human Resources  
Management

1400 Independence  
Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC  
20250-9600

MAY 20 2014

**TO:** Chief Human Capital Officers and  
Deputy Chief Human Capital Officers

**FROM:** William P. Milton, Jr.  
Chief Human Capital Officer  
Office of Human Resources Management

*for* *Roberta Jansquait*

**SUBJECT:** 2014 Federal-wide Feds Feed Families Food Drive

Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the 2014 Federal-wide Feds Feed Families (FFF) Food Drive on May 12, 2014. USDA will lead the 2014 effort with support from the Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCO) Council and other agency partners. The official 2014 campaign kick-off is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Monday, June 2, 2014 and will be held at the USDA Farmer's Market (Parking Lot 9) located at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC. This year's campaign will run from June 1, 2014 through August 27, 2014. The tentative collection dates are as follows: June 25, July 30, and August 27.

This year's National FFF Program Manager is Karen T. Comfort, Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA. As a reminder, in Secretary Vilsack's announcement of May 12, 2014, he requested that the names and contact information of your agency's Chair and Champion(s) be emailed to [fedsfeedfamilies@usda.gov](mailto:fedsfeedfamilies@usda.gov) by no later than Friday, May 16, 2014. If you have not already emailed this information, please do so as soon as possible.

Training for FFF Chairs and Champions is scheduled for this Thursday, May 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. The training will be held at the USDA Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 107-A, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC. The Smithsonian Metro Station is conveniently located near the Whitten Building; use the Mall exit and enter the building via Jefferson Drive. Visitors to the Whitten Building must present a valid identification card. Visitors will be met at the Whitten Building guard's desk and escorted to the training session. The training will include information as to how the campaign will be conducted and overall logistics. In addition to the training, we also invite all Chairs and Champions to attend the official June 2 kick-off event.

As you may be aware, the FFF initiative started in 2009, when Congressman Frank Wolf (Virginia) informed then Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director, John Berry of food banks' dire need for food during summer months when children are out of school. Donations generally drop during summer months and participation in the Summer Food Service Program is significantly lower than participation in the school meal programs that provide nutritious meals during the school year. The FFF initiative

helps to fill that gap. Our donations help ensure that those children are not greeted by empty pantry shelves when the need is the greatest.

Congressman Wolf asked the question, "Can Federal workers help?" I am proud to say that in the past five summers, we have collected 24.1 million pounds of food and other non-perishable items to support families across America who are in need. As in prior years, donations collected in the Washington, DC area go to the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, distributed by our partner, the Capital Area Food Bank. Other donations go to food banks throughout the country. More than 85 percent of Federal workers live and work outside of the Washington, DC metropolitan area, so with your help, we are helping communities in every State.

In 2013, we did not establish a collection goal. We simply asked each agency to set their own goals and beat their previous best. We received an overwhelming response to that challenge and collected more than 8.9 million pounds of food. As a result of your overwhelming response in 2013, we are not establishing a goal this year. Again, we are simply asking agencies to establish their own goals and beat their previous best. We are confident that Federal employees will answer the call and help their neighbors and their communities. We are relying on you to help your Agencies collect more food than ever! All Federal agencies, including field components, are asked to participate in the campaign. The field agencies can share their collections with their local food banks. We are looking forward to ensuring that the FFF campaign stretches across America and is visible and active in every State.

Thank you for the work that you do to help your neighbors who are in need. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful FFF campaign.

cc:

Katherine Archuleta, Director, OPM

Justin Johnson, Executive Director, CHCO Council, OPM

Karen T. Comfort, 2014 FFF National Program Manager