The [Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.baylor.edu%2Fhungerandpoverty%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGe9dem6NYPRh_wpfsF6HvWAaGYbQ) (The Collaborative) integrates research, innovation, and practice to help communities end hunger and its causes. Through projects such as the Texas Hunger Initiative, the Global Hunger and Migration Project and the Hunger Data Lab, the Collaborative leads research and community engagement with local, state, national, and global relevance.

**HOW THE COLLABORATIVE HAS RESPONDED TO COVID-19**

1. **Emergency Meals to You (eMTY)**

**On March 17, 2020, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Baylor Collaborative, McLane Global, and PepsiCo announced a plan to deliver meals to students in rural areas affected by COVID-19 school closures. This effort, *Emergency Meals to You* (eMTY), is an expansion of a pilot the Collaborative conducted in 2019 called *Meals to You*. During this pilot project in summer 2019, The Collaborative provided over 475,000 meals to 4,000 children. Boxes were shipped weekly to children and teens in rural areas where traditional summer meal sites were unavailable. In response to the COVID-19 crisis and extensive school closures, USDA asked the Collaborative to expand this program nationwide to serve eligible schools in rural areas and in areas shut in by the quarantine. The Collaborative is providing technical assistance and administrative support for eMTY by consulting with federal and state agencies and school districts to manage enrollment and address verification, and match interested school districts with vendors. We will begin serving students 1,000,000 meals per week immediately with the possibility of growth beyond that as need arises and capacity allows. Find more information at** [www.hungerandpoverty.org](http://www.hungerandpoverty.org)**.**

1. **Texas Food Resources Coordination**

**On March 15, 2020, the Collaborative launched the *COVID-19 Texas Food Resources* website where we track school food resources available across the state. By responding quickly when Texas schools first began announcing closures, we were able to help connect families to food resources immediately. As more schools close and new food sites open, the list is updated by the Collaborative with information gathered by the Texas Hunger Initiative, Feeding Texas and Communities in Schools of Texas. In addition, Texas Hunger Initiative staff in our regional offices have coordinated volunteers and broader food access by supporting closed districts in planning and executing meal service with local nonprofit and private sector partners, collaborating on new food access models like senior produce delivery, and assisting our Hunger Free Community Coalitions across the state in leveraging volunteers and funders to ensure food can get where it needs to go (i.e. Backpack programs for homeless families, rural food delivery routes). Learn more at** [www.hungerandpoverty.org](http://www.hungerandpoverty.org)**.**

**HOW THE COLLABORATIVE COULD RESPOND TO COVID-19**

**As of March 19, 2020, all school districts in Texas have closed and we expect that even more closures nationwide in the coming weeks. Many more students will be impacted by these ongoing school closures and limited access to meals. With your donation, we could expand our reach and coordinate food access efforts in even more communities. We could potentially send more *Meals to You* boxes to children around the country in need both now and into the summer months. We could also expand our work in Texas to ensure increased food resources for kids and families who in many cases were already struggling prior to the COVID-19 crisis and now are in dire straits. Additionally, we will be able to grow the *Texas Food Resources* website to depict other food resources in communities or create and house pages for other states.**

**These are just a few interventions which could alleviate strain on families in the coming months. And we know this crisis will continue to have economic and social impacts likely for years to come. Your support would not only help immediate relief efforts but could also support long-term interventions which have yet to emerge. Once the most pressing days of this crisis are behind us, we will let you know what your donation allowed us to do.**

**Visit** [www.hungerandpoverty.org](http://www.hungerandpoverty.org) **to make an online donation or you can send in a check using the information below:**

**Checks made payable to: Baylor University**

**Mail to: Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger & Poverty**

 **Attn: Amanda Chasteen**

 **One Bear Place #97120**

 **Waco, TX 76798-7120**

**About the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty**

The [Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.baylor.edu%2Fhungerandpoverty%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGe9dem6NYPRh_wpfsF6HvWAaGYbQ) (The Collaborative) works to develop scalable solutions to address hunger and poverty nationwide. We bring together researchers and practitioners through projects such as the Texas Hunger Initiative, the Global Hunger and Migration Project and the Hunger Data Lab. As a project of the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, the Texas Hunger Initiative uses community engagement and research to help communities address food insecurity. THI has offices in Austin, Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, McAllen, San Angelo and Waco.

**About Baylor University**

Baylor University is a private Christian University and a nationally ranked research institution. The University provides a vibrant campus community for more than 18,000 students by blending interdisciplinary research with an international reputation for educational excellence and a faculty commitment to teaching and scholarship. Chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas through the efforts of Baptist pioneers, Baylor is the oldest continually operating University in Texas. Located in Waco, Baylor welcomes students from all 50 states and more than 90 countries to study a broad range of degrees among its 12 nationally recognized academic divisions.