

ORGANIZATION UPDATE



BEAN'S CAFE, INC.



2022 AGENCY DETAILS

We exist to fight hunger for all ages, one meal at a time, while providing a pathway to self-sufficiency with dignity and respect.

Since March 2020 we have provided 1.4+ million meals to those who need them most in our community.

The organization currently operates three programs: Bean's Cafe Food, Housing and Navigation Services, and The Children's Lunchbox (TCL). Bean's Cafe provides navigation, referrals, housing services, and meals for hungry and homeless adults in Anchorage. TCL was established to provide access to food for hungry children. Since March 2020, TCL has expanded its focus to include families with children, realizing entire households are facing food insecurity and that everyone should have access to the basic provision of food. The lack of access to food directly causes serious mental and physical hardship.

Bean's Cafe has been providing basic provisions of shelter and food in Anchorage since 1979. The organization is an independent, grassroots non-profit that is not affiliated with any organized religion or national affiliate.

We have a long history of delivering health and human services to the most vulnerable in our community. For decades Bean's Cafe operated a day shelter for homeless adults which provided food and referrals to services. We strive to avoid duplication of services within our sector by work closely with other agencies to coordinate our efforts.

In 1998, Bean's Cafe began serving hungry children through TCL program with the purpose of providing meals to hungry children in safe community settings. Bean's Cafe has extensive experience providing access to food in a client-focused manner. TCL provides a unique, year-round service that no other agency or program in Anchorage offers.

Prior to COVID, we offered prepared, congregant meals at community sites and operated a backpack program and food pantries at Title 1 elementary schools. The backpack program provided enough meals for a child for the weekend when they could not access school meals or after-school program. TCL collaborates with stakeholders and community partners in both the public and private sectors to avoid duplication of services and fill gaps in the system.

Bean's Cafe and TCL coordinate services with many other providers through many channels on a local, state, and national level. We work with the Anchorage School District, United Way, Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, The Food Bank of Alaska, and other convening groups. We also have connections directly with our partner providers including Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, Downtown Hope Center, Gospel Rescue Mission, Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC), Rural CAP, Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA) and many other agencies.

The pantry pack project is critical for our community due to the vast number of families with children living with food insecurity. This coupled with lack of transportation or access to food distribution sites and COVID shutdowns have made this program a critical part of providing food security in the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA).

COVID caused TCL to completely adjust our distribution model to meet growing demand. With community meal sites closed due to COVID, TCL immediately stood up the pantry pack program. This program provides a box of shelf-stable food designed to feed a family of four for one meal. Currently, TCL is feeding hungry families with children through the distribution of pantry packs in 17 schools, programs, meal sites, and community centers. Our model of bringing food to families with children where they are, is vastly different from other providers where families must go to various food pantries on specific days and times to access food resources. This funding will help replace CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) funding which was a one-time funding stream. Without this funding, the pantry pack program will be forced to reduce the number of locations and amount of food available.

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beanscafe.org

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4.4.5 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board of Directors updated 6.2.2022

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