



COVID-19 Response Update

Dear Friends,

For all of us, "home" has taken on a new meaning as our daily lives have changed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With schools closed, businesses closed, and many required to work remotely, we are all spending more time at home. For our friends without a home, it is an even more challenging time. Thank you for bearing with us as we navigate this pandemic and the implications for our services and programs, and as we work to do everything possible to provide what is needed for our friends coming to Oak City Cares.

I recognize we are in unprecedented times, so I am writing to share with you what Oak City Cares is doing during the COVID-19 outbreak. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for all of our partnerships because during times like these, coming together as a community is so important. First, we want to say a thank you to all our onsite service partners and especially to our partners at the City of Raleigh, Wake County, and Catholic Charities for their ongoing support.

As we all know, the population we are serving at Oak City Cares is especially vulnerable, even under the best of circumstances. And for that reason, we are striving to maintain at least a minimum level of basic needs services onsite for as long as it is reasonably possible and safe to do so. Our top priority is the safety of our guests, staff, volunteers, and partners.

We take the pandemic and related preparedness measures very seriously. We have put many policies and protocols in place, and continue to add more as the situation evolves, while we are consistently tracking new updates from the CDC, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and local government officials. You can read more about the specific policies we have in place on our website [here](#). We will continue to update our website and our social media pages with additional measures and policies as quickly as possible.

As of today, March 18, 2020, we are operating at a minimum basic level of services that includes showers, laundry services, medical services (during the week), and food services (on the weekends). Our Care Coordinators are now only doing intake appointments over the phone to practice responsible social distancing.

Our Weekend Meals Program was affected by the Executive Order issued yesterday closing restaurants and bars, so we are quickly pivoting with our meal providers to a take-out/bagged meal distribution for the upcoming weekend, and foreseeable future, to be in compliance with that order. If you are interested in helping support this shift in our programming, a list of immediate needs is below.

Thank you again to all our partners for the amazing display of unity to support our friends in need during this time of uncertainty. We will continue to provide whatever is possible to our guests throughout this pandemic, and we will keep everyone updated as the situation evolves.

With sincere gratitude,

Kathryn Johnson, MS, LMFT
Executive Director



List of Immediate Needs for our Weekend Meals Program:

Brown paper lunch bags, napkins, individually-wrapped hand wipe packets, Ziploc bags, individually-sized chips, individually-wrapped crackers, granola bars, breakfast bars, grocery bags, serving gloves (latex-free & powder-free), plastic to-go flatware, disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, bottled water.

