



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Food Bank RGV Issues Urgent Call to Action Due to Shutdown**

**Pharr, TX** - The Food Bank RGV is responding to the current crisis of furloughed government employees who are in need of food assistance as a result of the partial federal government shutdown.

Any furloughed federal employees who need food assistance may contact the Food Bank RGV at: (956) 682-8101 or contact Tiffany Gonzalez, (956) 904-4536, [tgonzalez@foodbankrgv.com](mailto:tgonzalez@foodbankrgv.com) or Monica Fuentes, (956) 904-4537, [mmfuentes@foodbankrgv.com](mailto:mmfuentes@foodbankrgv.com) and they will be referred to a Partner Agency close to their home for immediate assistance. More information will be available on [www.foodbankrgv.com](http://www.foodbankrgv.com) and social media outlets.

“We are working with our 275 Partner Agencies to determine the areas of most need,” Ron Meijerink, FBRGV CEO, said. “We are treating this as disaster response and, in addition to volunteers and specific foods, we are in urgent need of monetary donations in order to start mobilizing food to those affected.”

Meijerink went on to say that according to 2014 numbers from the US Dept. of Labor, there are upwards of 5,592 federal employees in Hidalgo, 4,520 in Cameron and 77 in Willacy counties. There’s no doubt these numbers have increased in the last 5 years. Potentially, the Food Bank RGV could be giving assistance to an additional 26,000 people based on an average household size of 2.6 in the next couple of weeks.

The Food Bank RGV is ready to help all Texans affected by the shutdown but it can do more with the help of individuals, organizations and local businesses. Make a monetary donation at [www.foodbankrgv.com](http://www.foodbankrgv.com) or sign up to volunteer today!

*The Food Bank RGV is an equal opportunity provider.*