

# Alaska Anti-Hunger Network Conference

## CONFERENCE AGENDA



Together Again is focused on emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger as a network to meet the challenges of the moment. Content will focus on maximizing value for the network including presentations, workshops, facilitated panel discussion, trainings, receptions, and activities.



*Together Again*

SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2023

Food Bank of Alaska  
Anchorage, Alaska  
[www.foodbankofalaska.org](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org)



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# WELCOME ADDRESS

MAIN STAGE | 9 AM



**KATHRYN STRICKLAND**

Chief Network Officer, Feeding America



**JIM BALDWIN**

CEO, Food Bank of Alaska

Join us for the Grand Opening and Warm Welcome to the Food Bank of Alaska's annual conference! We are honored to have Food Bank of Alaska's CEO, Jim Baldwin, along with Anna Constant, Feeding America's Senior Director of Member Engagement, gracing our event. Our inaugural message will be delivered virtually by the esteemed Kathryn Strickland, Chief Network Officer at Feeding America, who will inspire us with her insights on unity and adaptation in a post-pandemic world. This session not only bridges Alaska's unique food challenges with the broader national network experience but also provides indispensable conference logistics, encompassing emergency protocols, scheduling details, and a heartfelt expression of gratitude towards our cherished participants, distinguished speakers, and dedicated staff. Together, we embark on a transformative journey to fortify Alaska's food systems, with a strong emphasis on collaboration and resilience in the face of ever-evolving challenges.



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September - 2023

# 20

Wednesday

# 21

Thursday

8:30 - 9:00 AM	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; BREAKFAST</b>
9:00 - 9:50 AM	<b>WELCOME ADDRESS</b>
10:00 - 10:50 AM	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant Alchemy</li> <li>• Advocacy 101</li> <li>• Nourishing Futures</li> <li>• SAFE-D</li> </ul>
11:00 - 11:50 AM	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passing the Torch</li> <li>• Unlocking the Power of SNAP</li> <li>• Nourishing Seniors</li> <li>• Compassionate Care</li> </ul>
12:00 - 1:30 PM	<b>NETWORKING LUNCH</b> Lunch is provided with your conference experience.
1:30 - 2:20 PM	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Policy Futures</li> <li>• Unraveling TEFAP</li> <li>• Crafting Impactful Narratives</li> <li>• Embracing Resilience</li> </ul>
2:30 - 3:20 PM	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alaska Food Systems</li> <li>• Responding to Food Emergencies</li> <li>• Fostering Connection</li> <li>• Innovation with PantrySoft</li> </ul>
3:30 - 4:30 PM	<b>STRATEGIC PLENARY</b> Join us for a panel discussion as we chart the course for hunger relief.

9:00 - 11:00 AM	<b>AFC FALL CONVENING</b>
9:00 - 9:50 AM	<b>TRAINING: CACFP</b>
10:00 - 10:50 AM	<b>TRAINING: CSFP</b>
11:00 - 11:50 AM	<b>TRAINING: TEFAP</b>
12:00 - 1:00 PM	<b>LUNCH</b> Enjoy lunch in Anchorage & support the local community.
1:00 - 2:00 PM	<b>SITE VISIT</b> Join us for a visit to Lutheran Social Services to see PantrySoft in action.
3:00 - 4:00 PM	<b>SITE VISIT</b> Join us as we tour Beans Cafe's new commercial kitchen facility.
5:00 - 7:00 PM	<b>FBA OPEN HOUSE</b> Tour FBA's facility.

## KEY

- Main Stage
- Kenai
- Big Su
- Yukon



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# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## MAIN STAGE

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### JENNY DI GRAPPA Chief of Philanthropy & Community Relations

Unlock the gateway to sustainability for your organization through the power of grants! This session is your comprehensive guide to navigating the world of non-profit grants. Discover how grants can be a game-changer for your organization's growth and impact. From identifying the right opportunities to securing crucial funding, we've got you covered on every step of the grant journey.

#### **Grant Alchemy**

Turning Opportunities into Sustainable Impact

## KENAI ROOM

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### RON MEEHAN Policy & Advocacy Manager

Are you ready to be a force for change? Join us in this empowering session, led by Ron Meehan, the esteemed Policy and Advocacy Manager from the Food Bank of Alaska (FBA). This introduction to advocacy is your gateway to understanding its vital role in the fight against hunger. Discover how you can integrate advocacy seamlessly into your organization, amplifying your impact and creating a powerful voice for the community.

#### **Advocacy 101**

Empowering Voices for a Hunger-Free Alaska

## BIG SU ROOM

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### GUS SCHMIDT Child Nutrition Coordinator

Join us for an insightful journey into the world of child nutrition programs! In this session, Gus Schmidt, the passionate Child Nutrition Coordinator from the Food Bank of Alaska, will lead us through a comprehensive exploration of the latest updates and strategic approaches in the child nutrition space. We'll dive into essential programs such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and the heartwarming Food Bank of Alaska Weekend Backpack Program (WBP). Discover the incredible impact of these initiatives and explore the assessment of the current needs in ensuring children's well-being through proper nutrition.

#### **Nourishing Futures**

Child Nutrition Programming



## YUKON ROOM

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### CARA DURR & MIKE REUSSER

Chief of Advocacy & Public Policy | Chief Operating Officer

Calling all changemakers and visionaries! The much-awaited workshop on the State Allocation for Emergency Distribution (SAFE-D) program is finally here. Led by the powerhouse team, Cara Durr and Mike Reusser from the Food Bank of Alaska, this session is a unique opportunity to collectively reflect on the SAFE-D program's journey and impact. We want to hear from YOU, the heart and soul of this initiative, as we delve into the outcomes, lessons learned, and potential improvements. Join the conversation and help shape the vision for future programs that uphold the spirit of SAFE-D.

### SAFE-D

Navigating Distribution  
Options for a Resilient Future

## MAIN STAGE

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### REBECCA GUYER

Partner Services Manager

The anti-hunger network is fueled by passionate champions who tirelessly carry the weight of their organizations and communities. But what happens when these champions retire? Join us in this crucial session as we explore the importance of building sustainability through effective succession planning. Led by Rebecca Guyer, Partner Services Manager at the Food Bank of Alaska, we'll uncover strategies to ensure a seamless transition and preserve the momentum of impactful work in the fight against hunger.

### Passing the Torch

Nurturing Future Leaders

## KENAI ROOM

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### MAGEN JAMES

SNAP Outreach Manager

Join us for a transformative session as we delve into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and its pivotal role in our fight against hunger. Led by Magen James, the passionate SNAP Outreach Manager at the Food Bank of Alaska, this session sheds light on the current challenges faced by the program and how we collaborate with the state of Alaska to better serve our neighbors in need. Discover how you can leverage FBA's SNAP Outreach team to enhance support for your clients and unlock the full potential of SNAP in Alaska. Our vision is to cultivate an even more effective program that empowers individuals and families to thrive.

### Unlocking the Power of SNAP

Fostering Access to  
Nutritional Security



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## BIG SU ROOM



### CHELSEA DONOHUE & KRISTA JORDAN

Senior Nutrition Coordinator | DPA CSFP Manager

Join us for an enlightening session that shines a spotlight on our unwavering commitment to supporting senior nutrition. Discover the array of initiatives, including the beloved “Senior Box Program,” the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and the incredible grants fueling unique projects that cater to our cherished elders statewide. Our mission is not only to inform you about these programs but also to envision the future and seek insights from our frontline partners on how we can better meet the needs of our seniors.

### Nourishing Seniors

Enhancing Lives through  
Nutrition Programs

## YUKON ROOM



### HANNAH HILL

Executive Director, Breadline Inc.

Hunger brings with it the weight of trauma in the lives of our clients. Nurturing a compassionate and empathetic approach is essential as we serve our neighbors in need. Join us for an enlightening session where we explore best practices in meeting clients where they are and navigating the impact of food insecurity through a trauma-informed lens. Our esteemed presenter, Hannah Hill, Executive Director of Breadline Inc., will share their expertise, guiding us to reduce the individual impacts of hunger with sensitivity and care.

### Compassionate Care

Hunger Relief through  
Trauma-Informed Service

## NETWORKING LUNCH

### MAIN STAGE



Lunch with the CEO

### KENAI ROOM



Open Lunch

### BIG SU ROOM



Affiliate Food Banks  
Conversation

### YUKON ROOM



Fundraising  
Conversation

Enjoy a delightful experience at the Networking Luncheon, provided by longtime Food Bank of Alaska partner, Beans Cafe. Beyond the delectable dishes, immerse yourself in the varied company of fellow anti-hunger practitioners, perfect for forging meaningful connections and networking. Share your experiences, insights, and visions for the future amidst FBA atmosphere that nurtures conversation and camaraderie.





## MAIN STAGE

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### CARA DURR & RON MEEHAN

Chief of Advocacy & Public Policy | Policy & Advocacy Manager

Join us for a visionary journey into the future as we explore our top advocacy priorities, shaping both state and federal food policies. Presenters Cara Durr and Ron Meehan will lead an engaging discussion, where we delve into the invaluable role of anti-hunger practitioners like you in amplifying the voices of those you serve. Learn how your experiences and insights can drive meaningful change in Alaska's food policies, propelling us towards a hunger-free tomorrow. This empowering session will equip you with actionable steps to take effective advocacy action, igniting the momentum to move the needle on vital food policies.

### Food Policy Futures

Advocacy Priorities for a  
Hunger-Free Alaska

## KENAI ROOM

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### DANIELLE CALDWELL & SUE LAMPERT

TEFAP Coordinator | Program Manager, State of Alaska DEED

Step into an enlightening session as we uncover the vital role of The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in nourishing rural Alaska. Join us to hear from Danielle Caldwell as she shares invaluable insights into how we effectively serve our cherished rural partners through this program and gain first-hand knowledge from Sue Lampert as she navigates the program's challenges and opportunities, offering a glimpse of what lies ahead in the year to come.

### Unraveling TEFAP

## BIG SU ROOM

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### DESTINY WIDEMAN

Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Step into the transformative world of storytelling, a powerful element in the realm of anti-hunger work. Whether it's communicating the profound impact of an initiative or elevating the lived experiences of our clients, effective storytelling serves as a compelling pathway to winning grants, connecting with donors, securing partnerships, and advocating for change. In this engaging session, we will unravel the art of storytelling, from identifying potential stories to crafting a captivating final presentation. Explore the importance of conducting interviews with utmost respect, securing releases, and tailoring narratives for multimedia platforms, as we learn how to harness the immense power of storytelling to create a lasting impact.

### Crafting Impactful Narratives

Mastering the Art of Effective  
Storytelling



## YUKON ROOM

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### MARLENE REINERT

Deputy Clinical Director, Sitka Counseling

Join us in this empowering and experiential session as we delve into the crucial topic of self-care for practitioners in the anti-hunger network. Understanding the profound impact of stress on those championing this noble cause, we'll provide language and practical tools to reduce secondhand trauma and effectively manage the challenges that accompany this vital work. Together, we'll explore the significance of self-care in preserving emotional well-being, ensuring that we can continue to provide the best support to those we serve. This session is designed to cultivate a culture of care, compassion, and resilience within our community, fostering an environment where practitioners thrive while advocating for positive change.

### Embracing Resilience

Self-Care for Anti-Hunger Practitioners

## MAIN STAGE

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### HANNAH HILL & ROBBI MIXON

Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC), Food Waste Committee

In 2023, the Food Waste Committee set out to create an archive of all the ways food waste was being diverted and recovered by partnerships and initiatives across Alaska. In this session, the committee will share their public dashboard of food recovery partnerships, describe their data collection methods, and invite attendees into their vision of a Statewide map, including potential connections and valuable recognition, for the businesses and organizations that prevent food from being wasted.

### Mapping Food Recovery Across AK

## KENAI ROOM

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### ALAN BUDAHL

Executive Director, Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

Join us for a critical session that addresses an emerging and vital area of responsibility for the hunger relief network in Alaska: responding to food emergencies. This session sheds light on recent experiences responding to Typhoon Merbock and outlines future plans to strengthen our network's preparedness and response capabilities. In this eye-opening discussion, we'll explore the challenges and successes in addressing food emergencies, both large and small, and how we can build resilience within our network to ensure we are ready to face unforeseen disasters. Together, we'll embark on a journey of preparedness, fostering a united front to provide efficient and compassionate support during times of crisis.

### Responding to Food Emergencies





## BIG SU ROOM

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### LEO ARTOLA

Volunteer Resources Manager

Welcome to an engaging session that celebrates the heart of hunger relief: community engagement through volunteering. Learn how to cultivate a thriving volunteer program that ignites passion and purpose, empowering individuals to be agents of change. Join us in this interactive discussion where we'll share best practices, innovative approaches, and the joy of building a vibrant volunteer community that leaves a lasting impact on the fight against hunger.

### Fostering Connections

Community Engagement  
Through Volunteering

## YUKON ROOM

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### DEAN HUMPHRIES

Director of Operations, LSSA

Join us for an exhilarating session that propels hunger relief into a new era of innovation with PantrySoft, an integrated software solution revolutionizing our collective mission. This session is a captivating exploration of how PantrySoft anchors transformative innovation in our fight against hunger. Embrace the power of technology as we delve into the dynamic features and capabilities of PantrySoft, empowering organizations to streamline operations, optimize resources, and maximize impact. In this interactive discussion, we'll unveil the art of creative problem-solving and strategic partnerships, all united under the transformative potential of PantrySoft in impacting the landscape of anti-hunger work.

### Innovation with PantrySoft

Transforming Hunger Relief

## MAIN STAGE

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### Food Bank of Alaska Strategic Plenary

Charting the Course for Hunger Relief

Join us for a compelling and interactive facilitated panel discussion as we embark on a deep dive into the Food Bank of Alaska's strategic planning. This session places a spotlight on effectively communicating FBA's visionary direction, offering the anti-hunger network a clear understanding of our strategic roadmap. This engaging plenary will be enriched with insightful conversations, allowing the network to actively participate by submitting questions to be addressed by FBA leadership. Our goal is to foster transparency and collaboration, uniting as a network to collectively pursue a future free from hunger. Let's come together in this transformative discussion, where we illuminate the path ahead and inspire a shared commitment to our strategic vision.



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Welcome to

**DAY 2**



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SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2023

## TRAININGS

9:00 - 9:50 AM

**Child & Adult Care  
Food Program**

10:00 - 10:50 AM

**Commodity Supplemental  
Food Program**

11:00 - 11:50 AM

**The Emergency Food  
Assistance Program**

## ALASKA FOOD COALITION FALL CONVENING



**MAIN STAGE** | 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Join us for the much-anticipated Fall Convening of the Alaska Food Coalition, where the spirit of unity and collaboration meets the beauty of autumn in the Last Frontier. This year's gathering promises to be a dynamic and enriching experience that brings together individuals, organizations, and stakeholders from across Alaska's diverse food landscape.

## LUNCH

### SITE VISITS



1:00 - 2:00 PM

#### **Lutheran Social Services of Alaska Food Pantry**

This visit is a continuation of the innovation session but is open to all. This is a great opportunity to see PantrySoft in action as a real-world demonstration of the impact that innovative solutions can have at the pantry level.



3:00 - 4:00 PM

#### **Beans Cafe**

Beans Café, Longtime partner of FBA has recently undergone a broad transformation with the opening of their new commercial kitchen facility. Join us as we get exclusive access to their new facility to experience the exciting hum of this well planned and conceived operation. This is a great opportunity to "follow the food" and connect the dots on the splendid lunch provided to the conference.

# OPEN HOUSE



Join us for an Open House! This is the perfect stop for some food, drinks and networking among a broad array of industries in a casual, but professional, atmosphere.

**September 21, 2023**  
5 PM - 7 PM

## Thank You



- Speakers
- FBA Staff
- Beans Café
- Lutheran Social Services
- Catholic Arch Diocese: Holy Center
- Shelly Schmitt