

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FLYER — EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE**

### **WHAT IS EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?**

Emergency food services are considered essential non-medical services needed to ensure that clients remain in primary care and achieve improved health outcomes namely viral load suppression. These services are directed to HIV-positive clients; however, they can also be delivered to HIV-affected individuals, including partners or family members of HIV-positive persons when the service supports a health outcome for the HIV-infected client.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?**

Clients must meet the following eligibility criteria to receive emergency food:

- Client's income is at or below 50% of the area median income;
- Client affirms that they do not receive assistance from Public Aid (Link Card), or that the assistance is inadequate to meet their nutritional needs;
- Client affirms that they are not receiving food from Vital Bridges or any other Ryan White-funded food pantry\*; and
- Client affirms that they are not able to access other local food pantries\*.

\*Clients may receive food vouchers if they are accessing Ryan White or other funded food pantries only if these sources do not meet the health or medical needs of the client or if the assistance is unable to meet the need.

### **WHAT IS REQUIRED OF CLIENTS TO OBTAIN THIS ASSISTANCE?**

- The client must be enrolled in the AFC client level database and be receiving any level of case management services, and must complete the Food Assistance Assessment as part of the Care Plan prior to accessing emergency food vouchers through the case management agency.
- The client must cooperate with their case manager and apply for and use all appropriate options for obtaining food assistance.

### **WHAT OTHER OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?**

- Neighborhood food pantries
- Neighborhood soup kitchens
- Greater Chicago Food Depository, 773-772-7170
- Lake County Catholic Charities, 847-782-4163

If you have any questions or comments, call the AFC Program Department at 312-922-2322.

\*Any abuse or misuse of food voucher assistance can result in restriction or denial of future service use.