



Dear Friends and Partners of Cooking Matters Colorado:

As a result of evolving guidance about the coronavirus, Share Our Strength has decided to suspend all in-person Cooking Matters programming until at least March 31 for sites in Colorado. Our goal is for staff, volunteers, community partners, and families we serve to stay safe and healthy, while we adopt the best-practice recommendations to create social distance as a means to minimize spread of the coronavirus. The Denver office is also currently closed and staff are working from home through March. During this time the office will be sanitized to improve the safety of visitors and staff when we re-open. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation and send updates as needed.

As an organization, we are committed to helping families in-need who are shouldering the impact of this epidemic. Here are four resources that explain our work to ensure kids continue to get the nutrition they need during this uncertain and difficult time:

1. A [letter to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue](#), offering the agency our recommendations to be included in its guidance on Pandemic School Dismissals and Closures so that children can continue to receive meals while also adhering to CDC guidance.
2. An [issue explainer](#) providing a deep dive into the federal policy solutions that can help support low-income families and children in-need.
3. A [blog post](#) outlining what Share Our Strength is doing in response to coronavirus and how you can help.
4. Visit [Feeding Colorado's website](#) to locate a food bank where you live.

We look forward to hosting Chefs Up Front on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Four Seasons Ballroom at the Colorado Convention Center. Should the need for social distancing extend into May, we plan to identify a later date in 2020 and to honor all commitments. To learn more about how you can reserve a table at this unique gala showcasing Denver's finest chefs cooking tableside meals to support Cooking Matters' work to help families at risk of hunger cook healthy food on a budget, visit <https://www.chefsupfrontco.com/>.

We will continue to communicate guidance as things evolve. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we continue to monitor the situation and remain dedicated to helping families in need. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us:

- Program: Leslie Levine, Early Childhood Program Manager, [llevine@strength.org](mailto:llevine@strength.org)
- State Director, Kelleen Zubick: [kzubick@strength.org](mailto:kzubick@strength.org)