

## GUSTAVUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For many of our community, the pandemic has created economic harm and hardship in procuring and producing food goods. In response to this need, the City Council is establishing a food assistance program for those in need. In recognition of this hardship, the City will make available commercial grade food processing equipment to multi-family groups for fish and moose/deer processing and sharing.

The food assistance program will function with a partnership of local residents assisting other local residents. Complying with state and federal subsistence permit regulations, volunteer fishing crews will catch halibut and volunteers will process the catch. The halibut will be distributed through existing local informal food distribution networks (such as the Secret Santa program) and churches that can help to identify and provide for those in most need. In addition, when illegal moose is taken, volunteers will process and distribute the meat following the same procedures as the halibut.

Another hardship created by the pandemic is the attainment of food items, such as fish and meat by family members that are not able to utilize previous methods. Inability to charter or do group outings have reduced or eliminated opportunities to gather these important food items. To help secure adequate food supplies for this first Covid-19 winter period, food distributions to the community will be conducted in October, November, and December of 2020. Also distributed will be some shelf stable items such as canned salmon and packaged rice.

Food processing equipment will be reserved for use with multi-family food distributions and not available for individual efforts. All first time operators must be trained and then supervised by a Custodian, at a time that is mutually convenient. Training can be reserved with the Custodian (or, designated Custodian), with at least 72 hours advance notice, at the following link: <https://kimbersgarage.com/contact> Persons wishing to operate the equipment will first attend a training session on the safe operation, care, and cleaning of the equipment and agree to abide by the outlined procedures.

All volunteers, participants, and food recipients will agree to abide by the procedures outlined separately for community harvesting and processing of foods and shall further agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Gustavus, its officials and employees, the processing facility owner, the equipment custodian, and community volunteers from and against all claims, damages, losses and expenses, of any kind and any nature, including but not limited to any claims, damages or losses resulting from any accidents or injuries, including but not limited to attorney's fees and any and all fees related to any court or administrative hearings, arising out of or resulting from the use of this equipment or participation in this program.

This program is funded through CARES Act funds received by the City of Gustavus. Economic assistance to residents of Gustavus impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic is an authorized use of CARES Act funding under the Federal Treasury guidelines.