Backpack Program Manual





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About Northeast Iowa Food Bank Northeast Iowa Food Bank

Our **MISSION** of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank (NEIFB) is to provide nutritious food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations and individuals in Northeast Iowa, while providing hunger education programs to the area and to those in need.

Our **VISION**: We envision a community in which hunger is alleviated and all persons have adequate access to nutritious food. We will strive to accomplish our mission so that food security is ultimately achieved for all households.

Source: Grocery Product is donated, rescued, purchased based on availability and the situations of people we serve through our partner agencies and programs.

Deliver: Food is sorted and stored, to be ordered, assembled, and delivered throughout our vast 16-county service area.

Network: We partner with over 150 partner agencies, including schools, pantries, churches, community meal-sites, senior centers, daycares and other non-profits.

Nourish: The children, seniors, families, and individuals who experience chronic or situational hunger, are the ones who benefit from the public, private, and individual support we receive.

Northeast Iowa Food Bank and Feeding America

Feeding America® is a nationwide network of over 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs that provides food and services to people each year. The Northeast Iowa Food Bank is a member of Feeding America® and subscribes to its contract, pays memberships fees, and adheres to best practices for food banking. In exchange, the NEIFB gains national-level expertise in solving hunger, raising funds, sourcing food, strengthening advocacy, and understanding economic and supply trends. The Northeast Iowa Food Bank has a Feeding America® compliance officer who acts as a resource and who conducts an audit of the Food Bank every two years.



History of the Program

There are children in America that rely on resources such as free or reduced-priced school lunch during the school year.

The Backpack Program concept was developed at the Arkansas Rice Depot, after a school nurse asked for help because hungry students were coming to her with stomachaches and dizziness. The local food bank began to provide the school children with groceries in non-descript backpacks to carry home.

The program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children at times when other resources are not available, such as weekends and school vacations.

The program began at the NEIFB in 2004 with 100 students. Today over 12,000 backpacks will be distributed to over 3,500 students each week during the school year. We currently serve over 150 school sites in 16 counties. In the 2021-2022 school year the NEIFB distributed over 100,000 backpack bags



Program Overview

The Backpack Program provides food to children (Pre-K to 12th) in order to help families stretch their food budget. The program helps ensure children come back to school alert and ready to learn. There is no cost to the schools or participants as this is funded through grants and donations. The program runs from September to May and students may sign up or opt out at any time throughout the year.

Each bag contains shelf stable food items. The bags tend to weigh between 2-4lbs and we try to include at least 2 breakfast components, 2 lunch/meal components, 2 fruit components, and some snacks. While some of the products may be past their best-by date they are still safe to consume. We ask that no extra food is added to the bags but you are able to include personal care items if you would like. If you open a box or bag and find any issues please contact Alex Olson (contact info on page 28) at the NEIFB immediately.



Proper Storage

Proper storage and food safety guidelines are essential to maintain food quality. Use caution when handling and loading the boxes. Throwing the boxes or stacking them too high could increase the potential for damaged products. Best practice is to store food in a secure room and keep the boxes at least 6 inches off of the ground, 6 inches away from the walls, and 24 inches from the ceiling. Make sure not to store chemicals near the bags. In order to ensure freshness of the products you should utilize the FIFO (First In First Out) system to make sure the oldest products are being distributed first. Please notify Alex Olson at 319-235-0507 ext. 127 or aolson@neifb.org immediately regarding any issues with products.

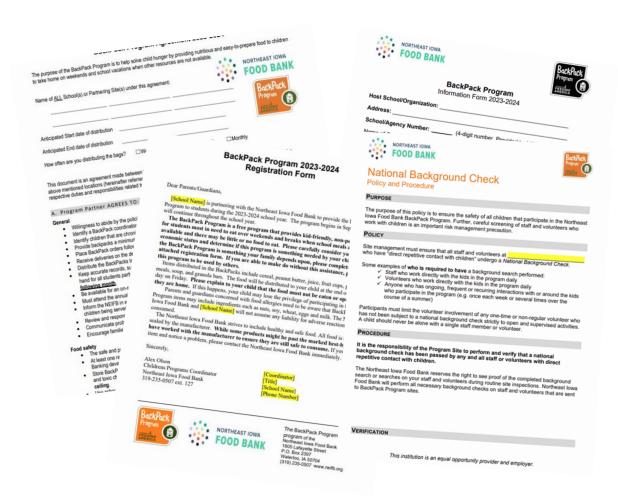


Requirements

Coordinators are required to distribute bags a minimum of once per month. The program is offered at no cost to the schools or students and is funded through grants and donations. Being a grant funded program, The Northeast Iowa Food Bank requires coordinators to submit monthly statistics to us by the 6th of each month and periodically share success stories about the program. We also request that you complete and facilitate full surveys at the end of the school year and shorter surveys periodically throughout the school year. These surveys give us feedback in which we use to help grow the program.

Each year program partners are required to complete four annual documents. Each of these need to be completed and sent back to aolson@neifb.org except for the Letter and Registration Form.

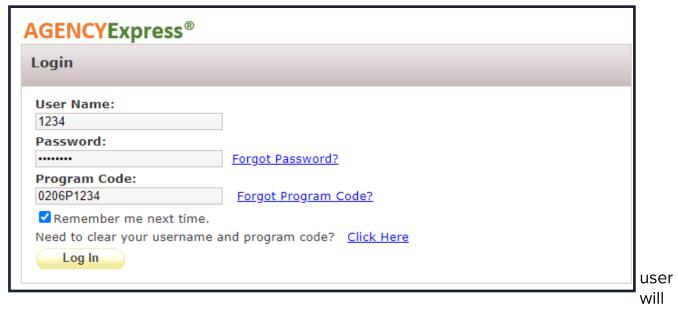
- Agreement
- Information Form
- Background Check
- Letter and Registration (Parent Form)- must be kept on file for two years.



Logging In

Open your favorite web browser, then go to: https://www.neifb.org/agency-resources and click Agency Ordering. This will bring you to the Agency Express login page where you can enter your credentials.

The log in page for Agency Express should appear below:



As a you

enter the following:

Username: Each agency shopper will have a specific User Name. User Name is not case sensitive. Please do not allow anyone else to use your user name.

Password: The default password is change12. **This is case sensitive**: all lowercase, no spaces. You may change your password by clicking the **Help** tab and choosing **Forgot Password**?

Program Code: The Program Code is always going to be 0206 (the Foodbank's Feeding America 4-digit number) plus the letter **P** plus your four digit agency number (e.g., **0206**p**1234**). The **P** is case sensitive.

Extra fields on login window:

<u>Forgot Password?</u> <u>Forgot Program Code?</u>

Remember me next time.

Forgot Password/Program Code

In the event you forget your password, click on <u>Forgot Password?</u> A new message box will appear on the screen:

- Enter User Name and Program Code to retrieve password
- Click on <Submit>

An email will be sent to the email address on record at the Food Bank. If you need further assistance call your Partner Capacity Representative and they will be able to reset your password.

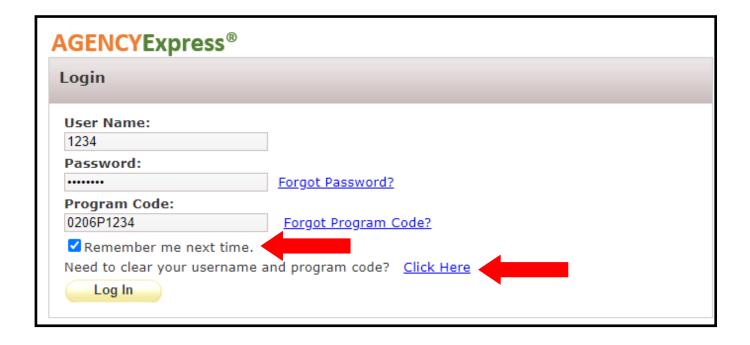


If you forget the Program Code, click on <u>Forgot Program Code?</u> A new window will appear and you will need to scroll down until you see <u>0206 Northeast Iowa Food Bank.</u>



Remember Me Next Time

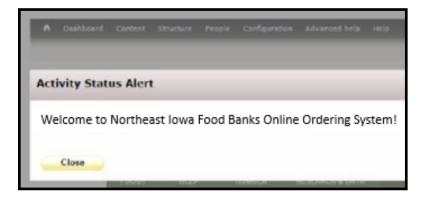
By clicking on the check box, next to **Remember me next time**, the shopper can avoid having to re-enter all login information each time. This will save both the User Name and Program Code at each login attempt. The shopper must still enter the password each time. We do not recommend using this feature on public computers (e.g. library, friend's house, etc.). If the shopper wants to clear the **Remember me next time** the shopper must uncheck the box. If for any reason the shopper wants to clear the User Name, Password, and Program Code then you can do this by clicking **Click here.**



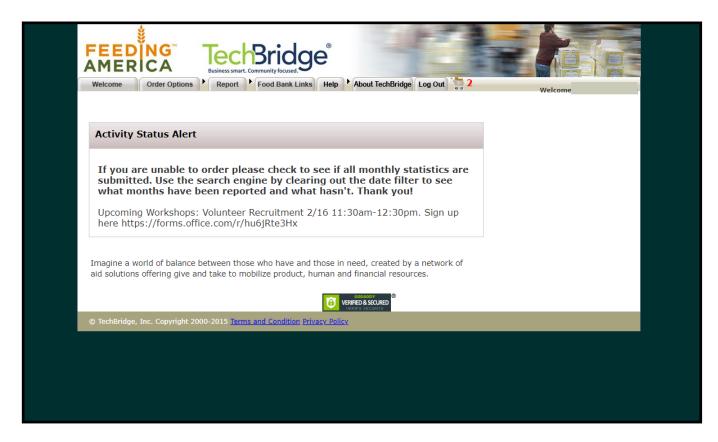
Welcome Page

A successful login will bring the shopper to the **Welcome** screen.

If you have logged in successfully a box will appear, "Activity Status Alert". This alert will provide important information about your account, closings, trainings, etc. Once you have thoroughly read the alert you can click the Close button to make the Pop-up message go away.

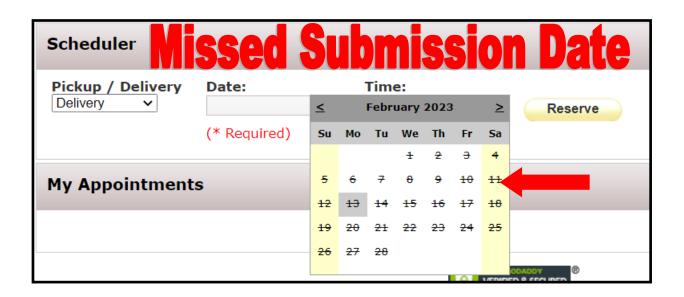


The **Welcome** screen is displayed each time the shopper logs in; however, the contents of this screen will vary. This is the News & Events Page for Partner Agencies. To return to this Welcome screen at any time, click Welcome located at the top left-hand corner of the page.



Must Order By

All orders must be submitted 4 business days prior to your scheduled delivery/pickup date. If you go beyond the submission date the system will not allow you to submit the order and all the dates will be crossed off. If you want to order ahead you can up to 10 days prior to your selected delivery/pickup date (includes weekdays and weekends). Please see the **Submit Order By** chart below for more clarification.

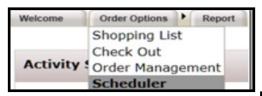


Delivery Day	Pick Up Day	Submit Order By
Monday	Monday	Tuesday by midnight
Tuesday		Wednesday by midnight
Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday by midnight
Thursday	Thursday	Friday by midnight
Friday		Monday by midnight

Agency Pick-Up

If you are <u>picking up</u> an order you will need to do the following steps:

1. Hover over the Order Options and click Scheduler. The Scheduler window will appear.



2. From the

Pickup/Delivery dropdown select Pickup.

3. To select



a date, click the calendar icon.

4. Then



select a time. Click the clock icon.

5. Then click

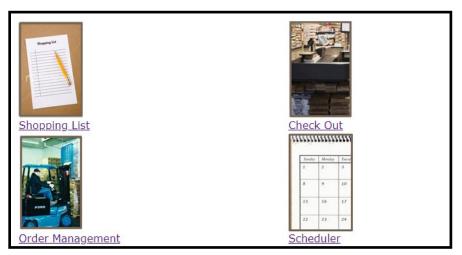


reserve.



Agency Pick-Up Continued

6. After clicking reserved you can go directly to the Shopping List and begin shopping



7. This will shopping cart

redirect you to the

To



8. **L**

complete the shopping process follow pages 15-21 for further instructions.

Agency Delivery

If you are an agency that receives a <u>delivery</u> you will need to do the following steps:

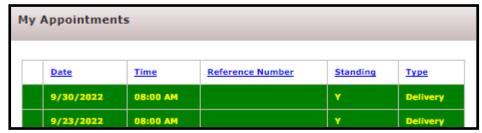
1. Hover over the Order Options and click Scheduler.



2. The with **My**

Scheduler window will appear **Appointments**. This is for you

to just verify that your delivery is accurate. You do not need to select any dates at this point since it is already reserved. If it is not accurate please call the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.



(Note: Deliveries the schedule)

will vary depending on

3. You now have the ability to go to the **Shopping List** and begin shopping.



NOTE: the delivery estimate only and weather conditions,

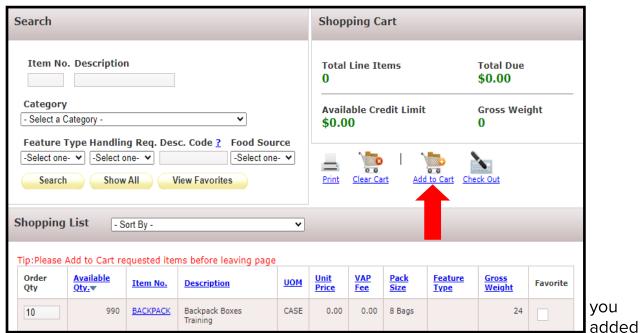
time displayed is an may change due to order size, or other

unforeseen problems. If you need the driver to call ahead before arriving please request this through your Agency Representative.

Add Items to Cart

To add items to your cart:

- 1. Enter the desired quantity of backpacks needed.
- 2. You MUST click **Add to Cart** at the bottom or top of the page to add the items to your cart.
- 3. A pop-up window with the words "Success: Item added to the cart" will be displayed, confirming the addition of the item(s) to your cart. If "Error" appears that means you attempted to order more than the available quantity and it will not be added to your current order.



4. Once have

the backpacks to your cart you can Check Out.

NOTE: As soon as an item is added to the cart, the number of items is displayed in red next to a shopping cart on the tab line. This number also indicates there is an order in **draft status**. It has items in the cart, but is not submitted to the Food Bank.

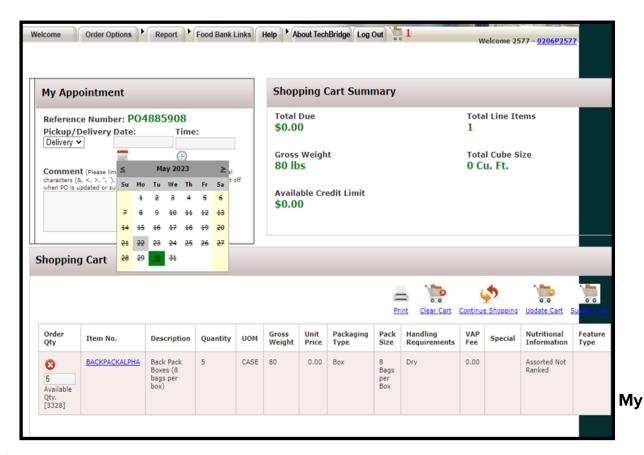


Checking Out

Once you have finished shopping, you need to review the items in your cart, make any changes, enter a reserved appointment date (Delivery or Pickup) and then submit your cart by clicking **Check Out**. This function is used when you have finished adding product to a new order or you have finished editing an existing order. It is from this page that orders are submitted to the Food Bank.

The Check Out screen consists of three sections:

- 1. My Appointment located in the upper left-hand side of the page
- 2. Shopping Cart Summary—located in the upper right-hand side of the page
- 3. Shopping Cart– located in the lower portion of the page



The

Appointment section is where you assign your order to the pre-reserved appointment time (either pickup or delivery). If you plan to pick up the order at the Food Bank, the date/time you select must have been an appointment time that you already reserved using the Scheduler.

NOTE: The appointment date and time that you plan to use for pickup / delivery of this order MUST have been reserved and is displayed in the **My Appointments** section on the **Scheduler** page.

Action Icons and Comment Box

The Action Icons will be displayed each time. The following will allow the shopper to:



Print - Displays and prints the current list of items.



Clear Cart - Clears any items that have been added to a cart.

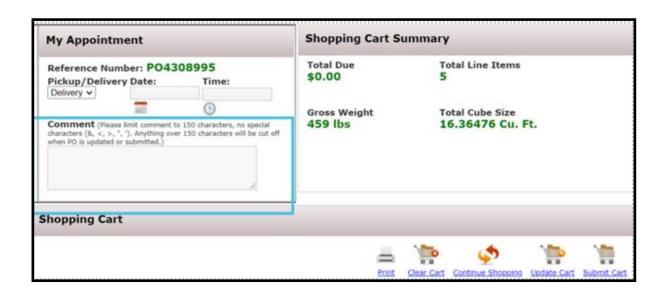


Add to Cart – Adds any selected items from the items list to the current Shopping Cart.



Check Out - Sends the shopper to the Check-Out Screen.

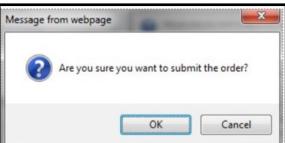
As a shopper you have the option of adding additional requests for the NEIFB to know about your order in the **Comment Box**. The comment will need to be re-entered if you happen to make adjustments to the cart before you submit. Notes such as a request to call before delivery or traffic instructions, etc.



Successfully Checked Out

Once the order is reviewed and finalized you are able to submit the order.

1. After you click Submit Cart, you will be asked if you are sure want to submit the order, please click on the OK button to confirm.



2. You will then see a message stating that your order was submitted successfully.



The Shopper will receive a confirmation email after your order has been acknowledged by the Foodbank. This typically takes about 15 minutes for the email to be sent. Be sure to open the attached order confirmation to know how many backpacks have been reserved for your school.

The email will read:

"Thank you for your order. Please go to the order management screen to make any changes to your order."

Edit and Cancel Orders

To be permitted to edit your order, the status must be in **Acknowledged** status. Please follow the steps below:

- 1. Order Options Tab and select Order Management
- 2. Click on the Pencil icon. This will reopen your shopping cart and allow you to add items to your order as well as adjust the quantities of items you have already submitted

NOTE: You must wait 15 minutes after you have submitted your order before editing is allowed. Reminder to re-submit the cart again!

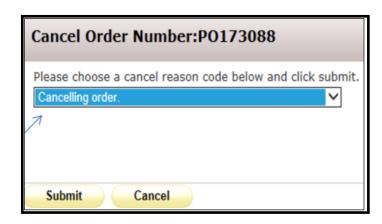


If for

any reason

you want to cancel your order you must follow the steps below:

- 1. Order Options tab and select Order Management
- 2. Click on the delete icon. This will cancel the order.
- 3. A box will appear, and you must choose Cancelling order.



Order Status

There are nine different statuses that you may see in the status column next to a submitted order:

Draft Order- has been started but not submitted. The grocery cart in the right hand corner will have a red number next to it.

New Order- indicates that you have successfully created a new order. You may delete the order by click the red X.

Sent to Food Bank- means the order has been submitted to the Food Bank. No changes to the order can be made while in this status.

Acknowledged- This means that your order has been received by our system. You can delete the order by clicking on the red X, or make changes to the order by clicking on the pencil and then clicking **Continue Shopping**. After you submit your cart, it is very important that you come back to the Order Management screen after about 20 minutes to make sure that your order is in the **Acknowledged** mode and not still in **Sent to Foodbank**- mode. If your order has not been **Acknowledged**, there will be no order for you to pick up. You don't want to drive all the way to the Foodbank and there not be an order. It is up to you to ensure that your order has been Acknowledged.

Released- the order has been completely processed and can no longer be changed.

Editing- this means you went into an existing order to make changes but you didn't resubmit the cart. You must submit the cart again if you made changes. If you made no changes, you can click Cancel Edit and the order will be restored to the Acknowledged state.

Cancelled- means the order was cancelled by the shopper

Rejected- means the order has been rejected and the NEIFB will contact you

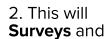
Invoiced- means the order has been delivered or picked up. You will see every invoice generated on your account since the time your account was authorized to order online.

Reports and Survey Management

All sites are required to submit monthly reports formally known as statistics to the Food Bank. It must be entered no later than the 6th business day of each month. If you did not serve any backpacks in the month, please fill in with zeroes so we know you are still active. If you miss the deadline your account will automatically be suspended until you have reported. Please allow 15 minutes for the system to recognize your submission and it will automatically unsuspend your account.

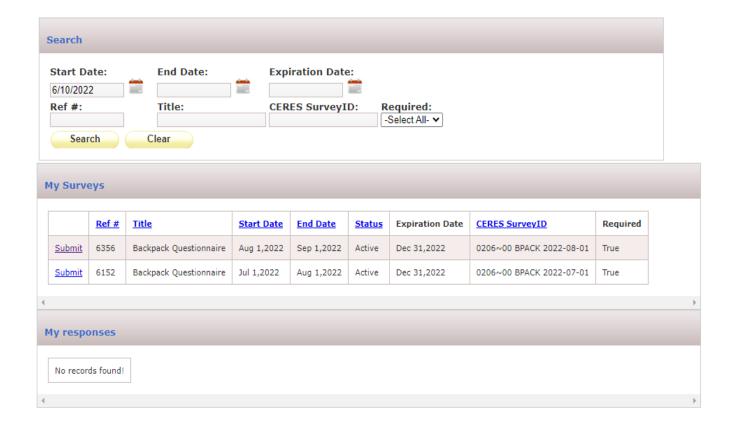
Fill out the following steps below:

1. Hover over Report and select Survey Management.



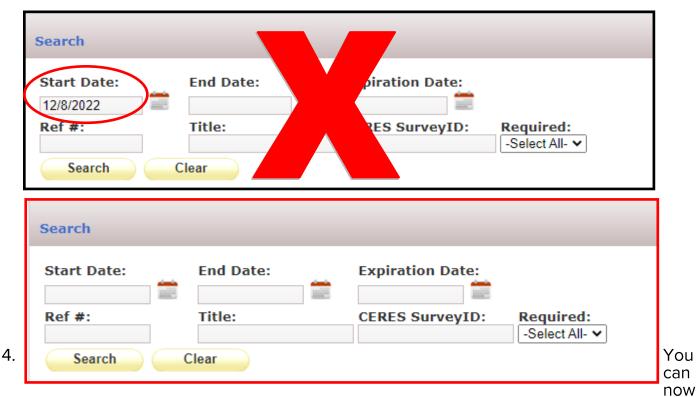


redirect you to **Search, My My Responses** page.



Search and Surveys

3. Clear out the **Search** engine at the top for any automatic filters that may be applied. Once it has been cleared select *Search*. The **Search** section should resemble the second picture outlined in red.



view the pending **Surveys** that need to be submitted and the Surveys you have already submitted, **My Responses**.



Submitting My Surveys

5. Under **My Surveys** the **Start Date** is the month you will want to report for. You must correlate your monthly data with the correct **Start Date**. In the example below this site needs to submit for the months of July and August.



6. To submit a survey go to **My Surveys** and select <u>Submit</u>. This will populate a new window with the survey questions that must be filled out. Please read questions thoroughly and select Submit once completed.

Backpack Questionnaire Backpack		
Number of Students *		
Number of Students		
Total Backpacks *		
Number of Volunteers *		
Total Volunteer Hours *		

Number of Students: Number of students who receive at least 1 backpack bag.

Total Backpacks: Total number of backpack bags distributed for the month.

Number of Volunteers: Number of volunteers who help with the program

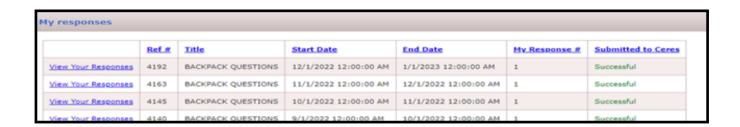
Total Volunteer Hours: Total number of hours logged by volunteers

Successful Submission

6. After pressing Submit, wait for a "Thank You" screen to appear. If this screen does not appear, the report was not submitted successfully and you need to resubmit your report.



7. It is recommended that you verify the report was submitted by checking **My Responses** and seeing **Successful** under Submitted to Ceres column.



FAQ's

Q: Why can't I login?

A: There a few reasons you could be having difficulty logging into Agency Express. Make sure the credentials you are using to login are being entered correctly. The most common error is users forgetting to include '0206P' at the beginning of the Program Code field. Additionally, it is possible that your agency made changes to its Authorized Agency Express Users list and your Username was deactivated.

Q: What do I do if I am unable to select a date and time to attach to my order?

A: If there no dates on the calendar at Check Out, contact your food bank.

Q: How can I change my order after I've submitted it?

A: On Order Management if you see these icons in the first column:

- A red circle with an X order can be canceled by the shopper.
- A pencil order can be edited by the shopper.
- After editing an order, click to send the edited order to the food bank. Failure to click means no changes are recorded.
- An order can never be edited once it is in Released status

Q: Why are there no available order pick-up dates when I go to the Checkout page?

A: You must schedule a pick-up from the **Scheduler** page before you start adding to your shopping cart. Then, the date you scheduled on that page will be the only date you can choose at the Checkout page.

Q: I forgot my password, what should I do?

A: Select **forgot password** at the login page.

Q: I do not see a delivery for the day I'm scheduled for, what do I do?

A: Contact the food bank and confirm schedule.

Q: How do I report my monthly statistics now?

A: You must hover over the Report Tab and select Survey Management. You must then select Submit which will populate a window of questions. Reports are due by the 6th of each month.

For Further Questions

Alex Olson [Aolson@neifb.org]- Primary Contact
Childrens Programs Coordinator

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Childrens Programs Manager