



The Open Door
Julie LaFontaine, President and CEO
28 Emerson Ave.
Gloucester, MA 01930

Media Contact: **Sarah Grow**
Email: communications@foodpantry.org
Phone: 978-283-6776 x **206**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday September 25, 2025

The Open Door Statement on Changes to the Delivery Program

GLOUCESTER – Below is a statement from President and CEO Julie LaFontaine on changes to The Open Door delivery program this fall:

“Cuts to federal safety net programs are creating a ripple effect in our community, and The Open Door is responding to feed more people, on top of already increased need. Since August 2024, we’ve welcomed an average of 68 new families each month on top of existing need. Twice this year, we’ve expanded grocery pick-up appointments to keep pace with the growing demand.

“Our delivery program **is not going away**, instead we recently asked clients to re-apply so that we can ensure the program is only serving people who are homebound or with significant medical conditions with no other way to access food.

"The Open Door is still here to help. Clients who are not eligible for delivery can still get free groceries and meals. They may designate someone to pick-up for them, access our food lockers to pick-up after hours, visit a Mobile Market close to home, or eat a meal with us in our dining room.

“We understand the community’s concern about any changes to our programs. We want you to know this decision was not made lightly. We are committed to our mission and we are positioning ourselves to be here for the long haul.

“Together, we can keep our community fed. Hope lives here, and so does resilience.”

The Open Door still needs delivery drivers to maintain this program and anyone interested in volunteering can apply at FOODPANTRY.org/volunteer.

For media inquiries, please contact communications@foodpantry.org

###