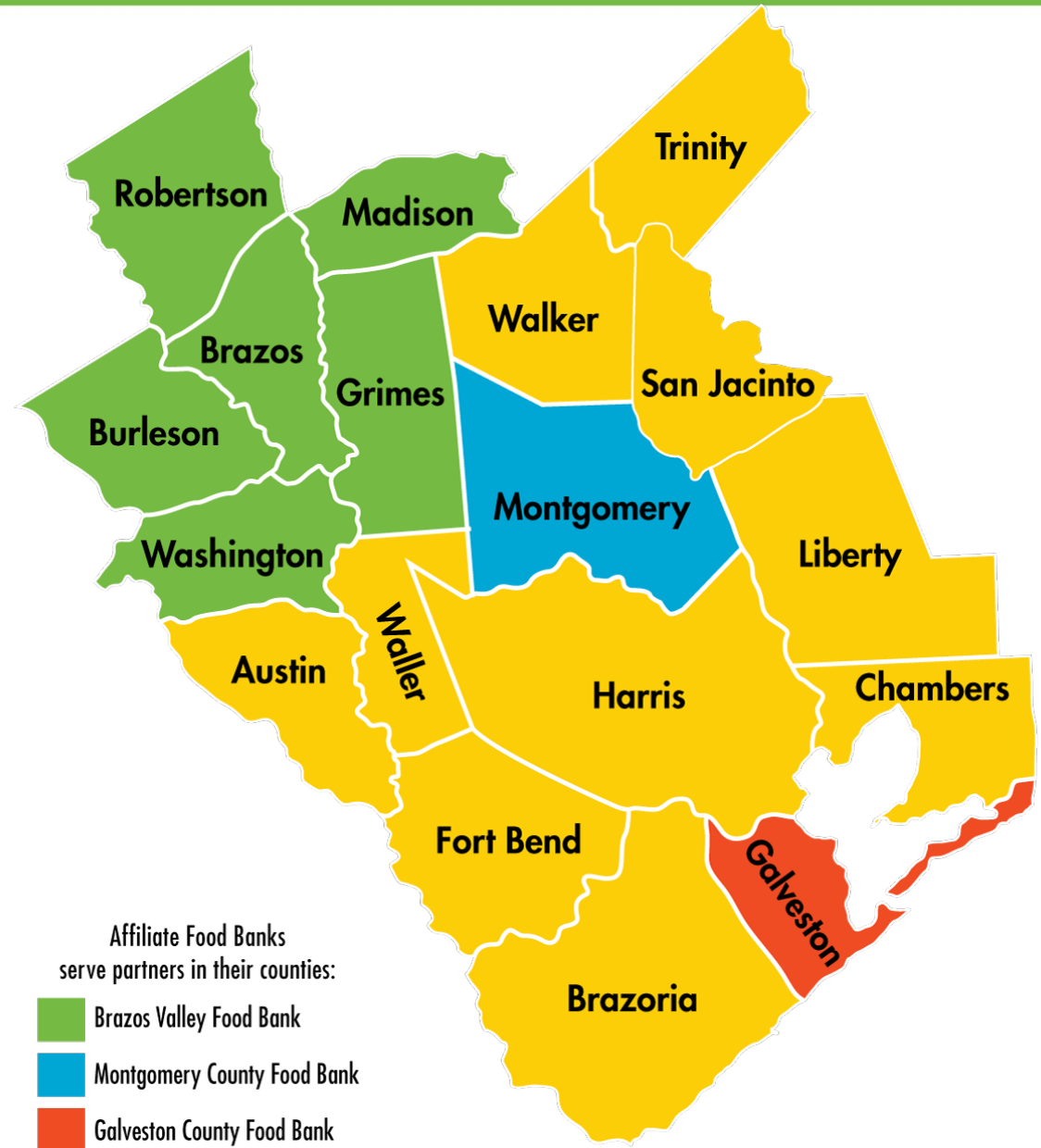


houston**food**bank



Disaster Response Coordination

- 18-county region; supporting 3 smaller regional food banks
 - 300,000 square ft. facility
 - 10,000 square ft. kitchen
 - 1,600 partners
 - 143M nutritious meals distributed last year



Houston Food Bank Programs



Backpack Buddy

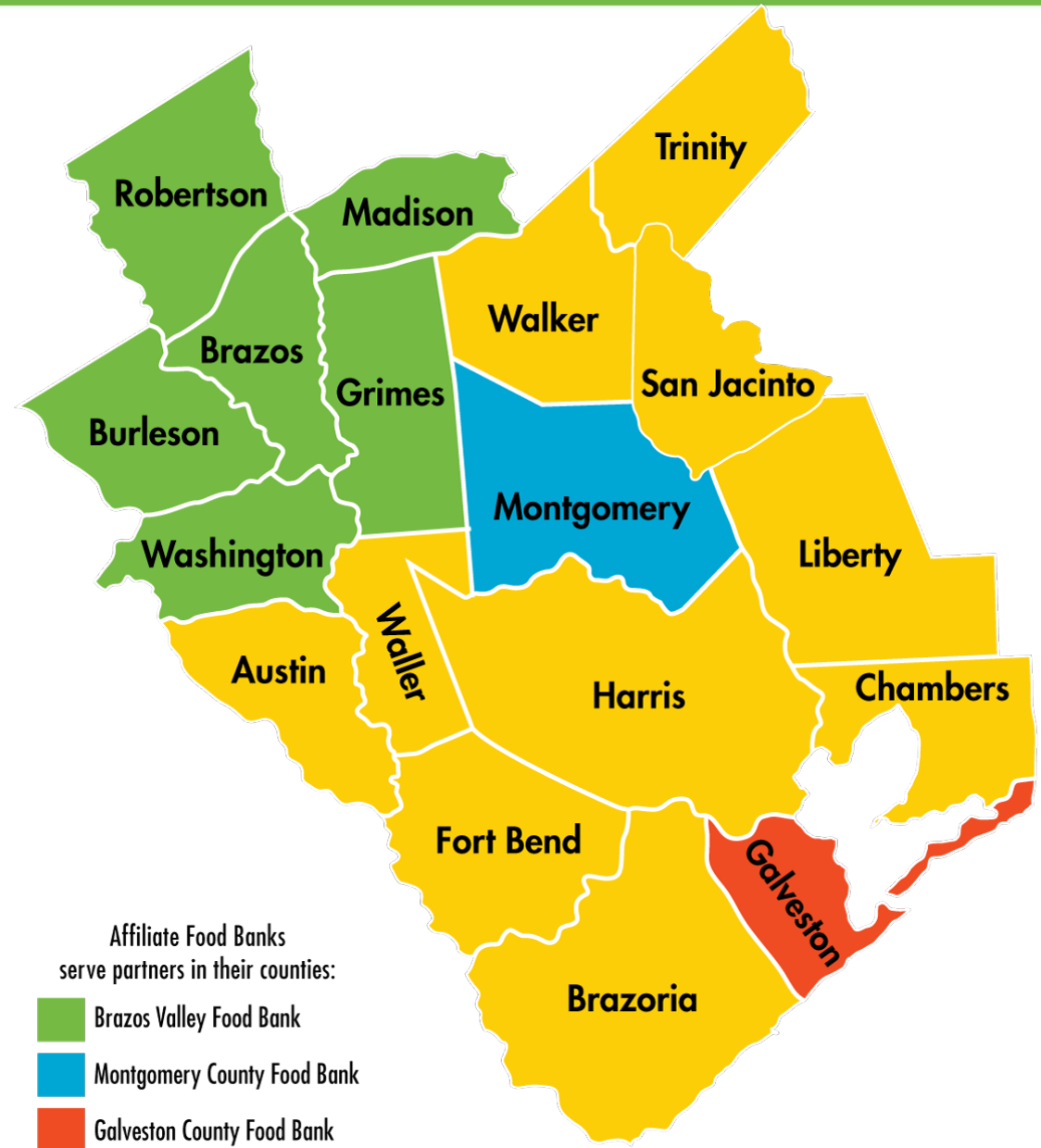
Kid's Cafe

Food Rx & Food Scholarship

Community Assistance Program

DISASTER RESPONSE

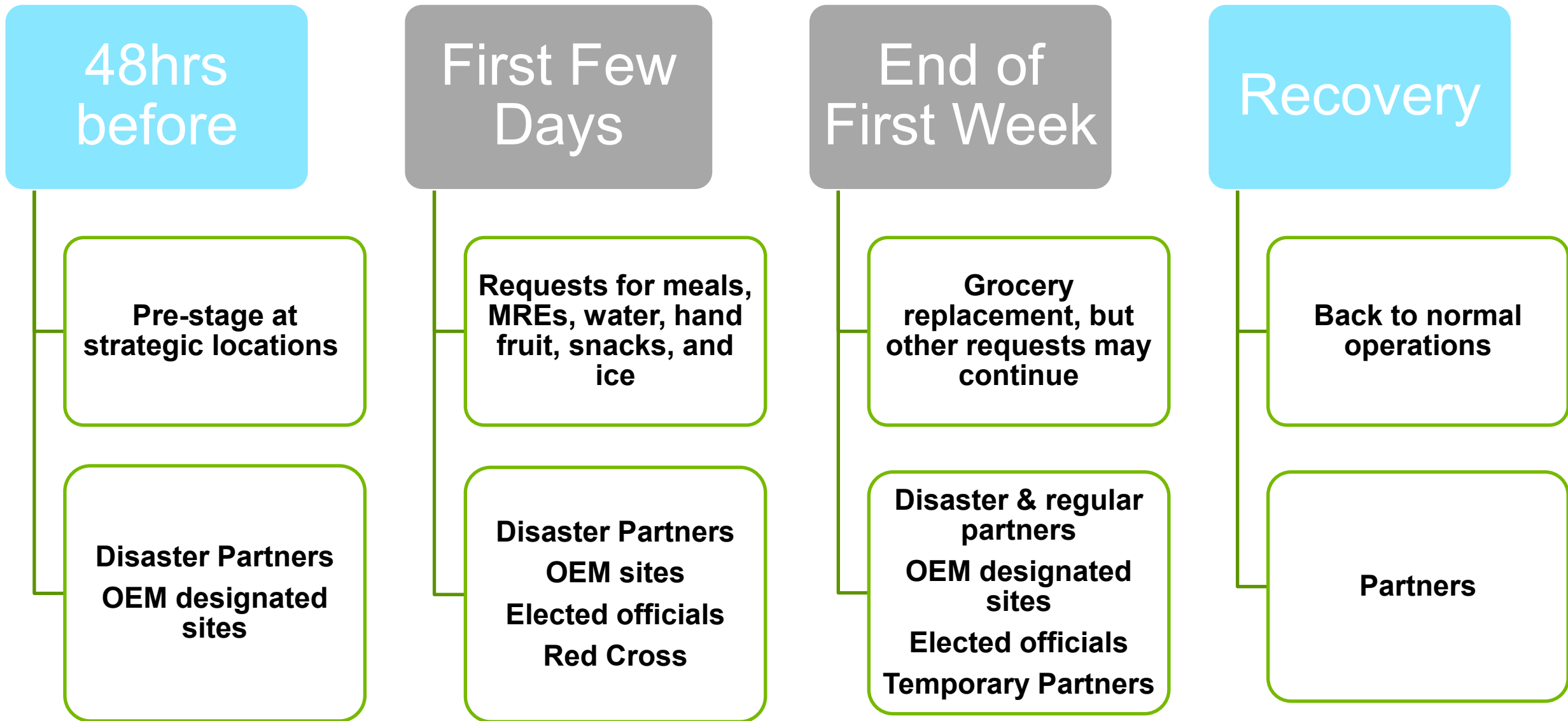
- *Derecho & Beryl (May '24 & July '24)*
 - 14.3M lbs. of food (with water and cleaning supplies)
- *2025 Government Shutdown*
 - 9M lbs. of food



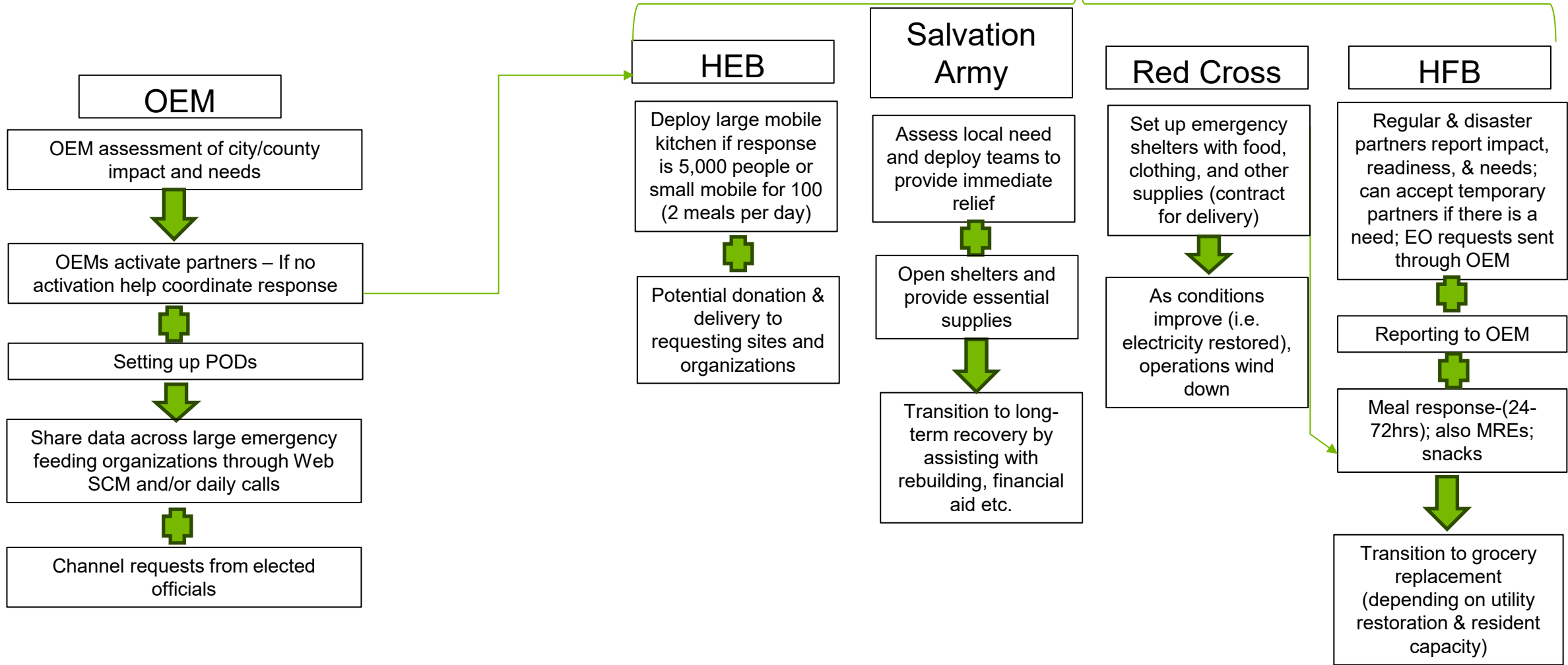
Disaster Response Organization

- Internal Incident Command Structure (ICS): Chief Operating Officer; Senior Director of Logistics; Chief Impact Officer; Government Relations Officer etc.
 - Every department has a Continuum of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Convene upon consensus that disaster is going to hit or ASAP if unexpected. Operate until a few hours before the storm; have a ride-out team.
- We say yes to any retail or other donations (able to accept 18-wheelers at our loading docks).
- In the event of large-scale activation, we can be deployed to an emergency center (i.e. Transtar).

Timeline of Disaster Response



Disaster Coordination



*participating in regional joint information calls

Elected-Government Official Process

- The Houston Food Bank requires elected officials to work with a non-profit or community of faith to conduct a food distribution.
- To request the distribution in Houston/Harris County:



Figure 2: Human Needs Resource Request Form

- officials wishing to have a **distribution in the City of Houston** should use this OEM QR code to make their request.
- **Harris County commissioners and** other elected officials wishing to have a distribution in **unincorporated Harris County** should utilize this link.
<https://oem.harriscountytexas.gov/> (click option 2 – ICS-213 RR Resource Request for Harris County).
- If outside Harris County, please call or email me.

Available Commodities

- pre-packed boxes containing shelf-stable food groceries.
- cases of water (if there is no other availability for water due to water break)
- cleaning supplies (such as paper towels, bleach, mops, etc.)
- hand fruit (such as apples, oranges, etc.)
- snacks (such as granola bars)

Available Commodities

- Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs – which include a source of protein, carbohydrates, fat, and electrolytes as well as shake to heat)
- Divided shelf-stable snack kits for invoice to purchase (50% of retail)
- Bulk food that must be divided on-site and packaged by volunteers
- Hot and cold meals in appropriate situations
 - Current example = \$3.52 (sandwich, chips, trail mix, fruit, and bottle of water)

Other Services

- Support from our *Community Assistance Program (CAP)* navigators to help people sign up for replacement SNAP benefits, if approved by the state and federal government, and other public benefits.

Disaster Distribution Challenges



- While supersite distributions (drive-through distributions that serve 1,000 or more people) can be useful in a large-scale disaster, the logistics are incredibly complicated and require many volunteers, equipment (tents, forklifts, etc.) and space.
- Elected official distributions
 - pop-up distributions (one-time) often strain capacity when not familiar with the logistics.
 - must work with non-profit/community of faith
 - Can result in inequitable coverage due to overlapping requests from different offices.

Disaster Distribution Challenges

- Volunteers to distribute food
- Identifying and getting to vulnerable populations including homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities
- FEMA reimbursement
 - MOU outlining agreement for services in the event of a disaster and when the county cannot fully meet the disaster related needs of its residents.
 - Soley for the purpose of FEMA reimbursement and not an obligation of funds.
- VOAD; making a call for local volunteers
- Utilizing data and your local expertise and collaborating with other disaster response organizations
- Review and sign MOUs

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