



GOOD FOODS IN THE GOOD FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

Partner Agency Benefits

At the core of The Food Group's family of programs is a set of resources designed to provide partners with easy and affordable access to the food and infrastructure resources they need to serve their clients. The Food Group partners with hunger relief organizations such as yours to maximize the sharing of food, resources, and support services. Becoming a part of The Food Group's network is free. Partner Agencies have access to these programs and services.

BULK PURCHASING

The Food Group buys a variety of food staples and hygiene items in bulk and partner agencies can order weekly at below retail cost. Bulk purchasing offerings include fresh produce, frozen meats, culturally specific food items, and hygiene and household necessities. The Food Group is committed to offering quality food items with a specific focus on nutrition. Free delivery is available to partner agencies that purchase more than 400 lbs.

NUTRITION SERVICES

Our Registered Dietitian can educate clients on nutrition using visuals (i.e. sugar and food models), handouts, and healthy recipes. Our team can share merchandising materials and techniques that help to increase client demand for healthy foods. We may also provide technical assistance in developing healthy foods guidelines and language to communicate to donors and volunteers to help procure healthier foods.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Partner agencies have access to The Food Group's computers, printers, scanners, laminators, and other media equipment. Agencies are invited to attend quarterly informational meetings in order to network, learn, and share best practices. Additionally, The Food Group's staff members are available for site visits, brainstorming, and resources on topics such as volunteer coordination, grant writing, food drives, and marketing.

FREE FOOD AND IN KIND DONATIONS

The Food Group recognizes food budgets are tight for many hunger relief organizations. We solicit free food and in-kind donations from a variety of sources. Anything The Food Group receives for free is available to our partner agencies at no cost.

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SERVICES

We specialize in culturally specific foods to support food shelf agency partners meet the needs of their changing community. Through our Culturally Specific Initiatives program, we distribute culturally relevant food to food shelf partners with a focus on Latino, Southeast Asian, East and west African foods. Agency partners can apply annually to receive free credits to purchase culturally specific foods from our Bulk Food Program. In addition, we have a cultural competency toolkit and offer assistance to further cultural competency at organizations and agencies.

PRODUCE PROGRAMMING

The Food Group is committed to increasing the amount of fresh produce to our partner agencies at no cost:

- **LOST HARVEST** rescues excess produce grown in the Southwestern regions of the United States.
- **HARVEST FOR THE HUNGRY** works with Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in MN to procure fresh, local produce for our partners.

What We Do

The Food Group, formerly Emergency Foodshelf Network, is a full service food bank with partnership and programs focused on healthy food access. We provide nutritious food and support services to over 230 hunger relief partners, including food shelves, on-site meal programs, mobile food shelf sites, and Fare For All sites throughout the state.

INNOVATIVE

The Food Group focuses on innovative partnerships and Programs to effectively fill gaps in hunger relief services.

EFFICIENCY

We are proud of our efficient use of community support: 90 cents of every dollar donated to The Food Group goes directly into programs serving hungry families.

NUTRITIOUS

The Food Group distributes and promotes healthy food.

VOLUNTEERS

14,000 individuals worked 32,000 hours during the 2013 fiscal year. This is equivalent to 15 full time employees.

LOCAL

The Food Group remains independent, ensuring local donations meet the local need.

IMPACT

The Food Group provided \$10.6 million in food and support services to partner agencies in 2013.

FAQ

IS THERE A COST ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOOD GROUP PARTNERSHIP?

No, becoming a partner agency is free.

CAN MY ORGANIZATION BE A MEMBER OF MORE THAN ONE FOOD BANK?

Absolutely. We encourage our partner agencies to take advantage of all the support services available.

DOES THE FOOD GROUP HAVE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTNER AGENCIES?

Yes. The Food Group's partners submit monthly statistics and are encouraged to order from bulk purchasing at least once each quarter. The Food Group also requires that all partner agencies have an established 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status or have a fiscal agent.

DOES THE FOOD GROUP CHARGE FOR DELIVERY?

The Food Group delivers food for free as long as the order is at least 400 pounds of purchased product. Partner agencies also have the option of picking up their orders from our warehouse.

HOW DO I BECOME AN AGENCY PARTNER WITH THE FOOD GROUP

If your organization is located in Hennepin County, contact Maria mbonilla@thefoodgroupmn.org
All other organizations, contact Fun Fun fcheng@thefoodgroupmn.org