

Types of Food Available to Member Agencies

Most people think food pantries provide mainly canned and non-perishable products, but The Food Bank offers LOTS of fresh, nutritious food to our member agencies. We have fresh produce from local farms, as well as dairy and meat! Best of all, most of the food we provide to our member agencies is completely FREE.

Some products have a limit on the number of cases a program can order each month, but there is no limit on the number of times a program can order each month—programs can order as frequently as they need to in order to meet their patrons' needs.

We have several product categories, based on the source of the food. These include:

Buy-In: Product bought by The Food Bank, available at wholesale prices. (These are the only products that programs “buy” at The Food Bank.)

Donated: Product donated to The Food Bank from various types of food donors. Available for a “Shared Maintenance Fee” of either 19 cents or 10 cents/pound based on county.

19¢/lb non-Hampden county

10¢/lb Hampden County

Fresh Produce: Product either donated or bought by The Food Bank. **FREE.**

Non-Frozen Perishables: Product donated to The Food Bank from various types of food donors. **FREE.**

MEFAP: MEFAP stands for the “Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program.” State funded. Case limits apply based on program size. **FREE.**

USDA (TEFAP): TEFAP stands for “The Emergency Food Assistance Program.” Federally funded. Additional paperwork and federal regulations apply. Case limits apply based on program size. Available after 6 months of membership. **FREE.**

Food Safety Requirements

We require all member agencies to have a valid food safety certificate on file with The Food Bank. For food pantries, we require a basic level of certification. For meal sites, we require a ServSafe Manager certificate. If you don't have a volunteer or staff person who has these certifications, don't worry! We offer classes in both levels of certification.

We also do a food safety inspection of all new programs, and all member agencies are re-inspected once every two years.

What's next?

If you're interested in membership, contact our Agency Relations team either by email at agencyrelations@foodbankwma.org, or by phone at (413) 247-9738. We'd be happy to send you an application!



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts

97 North Hatfield Road, P.O. Box 160
Hatfield, MA 01038

Phone: 413-247-9738 | Fax: 413-247-9577

www.foodbankwma.org



*The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Prospective Member Agency Information



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts



Are you interested in starting a food pantry or communal meal site in your community?

Maybe you already run one, and are looking for ways to access more food for your neighbors in need.

Maybe you have heard about The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, but you're not sure exactly what we do or what "membership" means.

This brochure is designed to help you understand what The Food Bank does, whether your program qualifies for membership, and whether becoming a Food Bank member agency is right for you.

What is The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts?

Our mission is to feed our neighbors in need and lead the community to end hunger. To accomplish that, we provide food from our regional distribution warehouse to a network of over 170 independently operated food pantries, meal sites, and emergency shelters in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties. We also provide direct distribution to clients through our Mobile Food Bank and Brown Bag: Food for Elders programs. In our last fiscal year, we distributed over 11.6 million pounds of food to our neighbors in need throughout western Mass.

What does it mean to become a "member agency?"

Joining The Food Bank network isn't a merger—your organization retains its independent identity and non-profit status. Our member agencies are independent non-profit organizations and houses of faith throughout western Massachusetts.

Who can join The Food Bank's member agency network?

We are currently accepting membership from the following types of programs:

- Food pantries and meal sites that are open to the public
- Emergency shelters (must have an average stay of less than 6 months)
- College/university pantries
- Food pantries based in medical settings such as a hospital or medical center

What are the requirements for membership?

Our member agencies must be sponsored by a 501c3 organization that is classified as a public charity incorporated for the purposes of serving the ill, needy, or infants; or by a church, synagogue, or other house of worship.

What are the benefits of membership, and what are the costs?

We're a membership-based organization, so our member agencies pay "dues:" an annual membership fee of \$125.

There are also LOTS of benefits to becoming a member of The Food Bank's member agency network... mainly, access to food! Along with food, we also provide additional support services, including:

- Weekly newsletter featuring community resources and funding opportunities
- Nutrition workshops and recipes
- Door-to-door food delivery from The Food Bank to your program*
- SNAP application assistance for your clients
- Networking opportunities with other food pantries and meal sites across western Mass.
- Free training workshops on fundraising, volunteer management, communications, and more!

**For eligible programs, when space is available (most programs will need to use their own vehicle)*