

FOOD DRIVE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How long does a typical food drive last?

Although some organizations conduct long-term or year-round food drives, the majority find that food drives with definitive beginning and ending dates work best. Your organization is unique, so we'll adapt our pick-up and delivery schedules to accommodate the food drive that fits you best.

If you have a special event coming up, a one-day food drive is a great way to add a community component to it. A weeklong competition between classes or departments often works well. Retail locations may give customers a period of months to bring cans in on their next visit.

During the holidays, our most popular time for food drives, organizations typically conduct drives for at least a month in the period between Oct. 1 and Jan. 31.

How big are the barrels?

Our barrels are three feet high; when empty, the barrels weigh 25 lbs. When full, they weigh up to 200 lbs. They'll fit in the back seat of most cars.

What materials can the Food Bank provide?

By checking the box at the end of the sign-up process, we'll supply you with the number promotional posters that is appropriate for your organization. You can also print your own customizable flyer and list of most-needed items from www.acffb.org/get-involved/fundraise/food-drive/. During the holidays, we offer paper grocery bags which you can request when you sign up, as well. Please feel free to use your own containers (e.g. clean boxes, new garbage cans) and print your own posters or flyers to help the Food Bank stretch our limited resources!

How does grab-and-go work?

From mid-October to mid-January, there are several grab-and-go locations supplied with barrels, posters and bags for you to pick up at your convenience. Barrels are three feet high and fit easily into most cars with a back seat. This is a great option if you want to begin your food drive immediately. Picking up your own barrels saves the Food Bank personnel, time and resources. You must complete the sign-up process before you grab your barrels. We'll pick them up when they're full – please DO NOT drop off food donations or full barrels at our grab-and-go locations.

Grab-and-go locations are listed on the website when they are open.

What foods are most needed?

We emphasize nutritious, non-perishable items such as grains, beans, pasta and high-protein foods – peanut butter and canned meat and fish are always at a premium. You can also print a list of most-needed items from www.acffb.org/get-involved/fundraise/food-drive/.

Please remember that we cannot accept donations of food in glass jars, perishable food, frozen food, fresh produce, alcohol, soda and baby food or formula, and non-food items.

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Does the Food Bank deliver and/or pick up barrels?

Yes! If you are unable to pick up or deliver your barrels, we can do it for you.

You can schedule both when you sign up. We appreciate your patience during the holidays, when our drivers combine barrel deliveries and pick-ups with their normal food delivery routes. During the holidays, we can't guarantee specific drop-off and pick-up dates, so we schedule those within a five-day window, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

On the sign-up form, there's a place to designate specific instructions for our drivers. For example: Our loading dock is located at the back of the building. Our offices are closed between noon and 1 p.m.

Where can I drop off my non-perishable food donations?

Not hosting a food drive, but still want to donate non-perishable food? There are a number of year-round locations where you can simply drop your food into our collection barrels, which is updated online at www.acafb.org/get-involved/fundraise/food-drive/find-a-food-drive/.

If you have more than one bag or box of food, please bring it to the Food Bank at 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland, CA 94621.

When will you let me know the results of my food drive?

Thank you letters including pounds collected and the corresponding number of meals your food drive was able to provide will be mailed to you approximately two weeks after your food drive ends.

I am part of an organization with multiple sites – can we do a food drive at all locations?

As long as those locations are within Alameda County, yes! If you are using our delivery/pick-up services, we will need on-site contacts, phone numbers and hours for each location.

Please call our Food Drive Hotline at (510) 635-3663 ext. 318 to discuss details.

How can we get more involved?

The most precious resource for the Food Bank is cash – because of our bulk buying power and vast purchasing network, we can turn every \$1 donation into \$6 worth of food. Start a Virtual Food Drive at www.vfd-acafb.org to harness our buying power and do our shopping for us!

E-mail volunteer@acafb.org or call (510) 635-3663 ext. 308 for more information about volunteering at the Food Bank. If you would like a Food Bank staff member to come to your site to do a presentation about hunger in our community, or to help you kick off your food drive, please contact us at fooddrive@acafb.org or (510) 635-6336 ext. 318.