



PARTNERSHIP ELIGIBILITY: FOOD ASSISTANCE

Thank you for expressing interest in partnership with the Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB). Great Plains Food Bank is a private, nonprofit organization that collects, secures, and distributes over 1 million pounds of food per month to nearly 200 food pantries and meal programs who serve the ill, needy or children across the state of North Dakota and Clay County Minnesota. Our partners are a vital part of the emergency food chain. Great Plains Food Bank provides food assistance partners access to low- and no-cost food to distribute to clients. We also provide technical assistance and training while we ensure your program meets food safety standards and provides fair and equitable service to clients.

The Great Plains Food Bank celebrates the uniqueness of each partner, but maintains high standards of food safety, client treatment, and barrier elimination to ensure clients are served in a safe and dignified manner. When starting a food assistance program, it is important to consider other food programs and gaps in your community. We highly encourage collaboration with existing food assistance programs, but look forward to hearing about potential gaps a new partnership could fill.

Food assistance programs that are interested in partnering with GPFB must meet the following requirements prior to beginning the application process:

- Be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, charitable organization, or be affiliated with a 501(c)(3) umbrella organization who serves the ill, needy and/or children. Cannot be a private foundation.
- Be located in North Dakota or Clay County, Minnesota.
- Have a mission to end hunger.
- Distribute food free of charge directly to the ill, needy, or children without requirement.
- Serve a minimum of 50% low income individuals.
- Have a facility able to safely handle and distribute food to participants in a dignified way.
- Distribute food at least once per month for a minimum of 90 minutes via appointments, walk ins, and/or mass distribution. Cannot be an on-call pantry only.
- Develop a thoughtful and organized plan for the food assistance program.

Great Plains Food Bank accepts applications at any time. The average application processing time is 4-6 weeks, however during October- January the process may take longer. Meeting eligibility requirements does guarantee partnership. GPFB reviews all applications to ensure new partners are not duplicating services and filling a gap within the community. We strongly consider partnerships with those that exhibit thoughtful and organized intentions that align with our mission to end hunger in North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota.

