

Resources For NYC Pantries

Food pantries are essential to ensuring that all of New York City's diverse communities are fed nutritious and culturally appropriate food. The City has assembled a list of resources to stand up and support pantry operations during the COVID crisis and beyond.

How to Start a New Pantry

This comprehensive [best practices guide](#) by Hunger Free America covers everything you need to know, from accounting to sourcing food to community partnerships.

How to Join the EFAP Program

HRA's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) provides funding to more than 500 community kitchens and food pantries citywide. To become an EFAP pantry, [complete this application](#). If you have any questions, contact HRA at 929-221-7679.

Receiving Food and Other Donations

DonateNYC matches those who wish to donate goods and services to those who need those goods and services. Sign up to start receiving donations today. For food donations visit nyc.gov/donatefood. For non-food donations, visit nyc.gov/donate.

Food Supply Match links farmers, food producers, manufacturers, distributors, facility owners, retailers, and others in the regional food value chain with excess supplies of products and services (processing, distribution, cold storage, etc), to those seeking products or services. To learn more, visit nyc.gov/foodsupplymatch.

Other Funding Resources

View this [checklist](#) to identify potential funding streams that are available to you.

Staffing

- **Workforce1** is the City's free human resources matching service, which can help match food pantries with qualified candidates living in their community. More information available here: [Hiring Assistance for Essential Service Businesses](#)
- **NYC Service** can connect you with volunteers and Americorps participants. [Reach out](#) to connect with volunteers that meet your needs.

COVID Safety

- Post signs instructing staff and visitors to stay home if they are sick, wash their hands, cover their coughs. Signs in multiple languages can be found on nyc.gov/coronavirus.
- Provide pre-packaged food boxes or bags to make it easier for clients to grab-and-go.
- Clients should avoid entering facilities whenever possible. If they do, they must [wear a mask](#) that covers their nose and mouth.
- Employers in New York State must provide PPE for their employees. The City has supplied the NYC Foodbank, City Harvest, United Way, Catholic Charities and Met Council with PPE to distribute. Please reach out to your affiliated organization to request PPE. If you are not affiliated with any of these organizations, please contact COVID19grocerystoresupport@cityhall.nyc.gov.
- Ensure staff can stay 6 feet apart at all times and have access to hand sanitizer and a sink for handwashing. Wipe down high-touch surfaces with cleaning products regularly. Cleaning guidance can be found [here](#) in English and Spanish.
- Other COVID-related guidelines: [Guidelines for Volunteers](#); [General Guidance for Businesses and Non-Health Care Settings](#); [Guidance for Vehicle Drivers](#); [Health Codes for Food Preparation from DOHMH](#)
- For a list of additional COVID-related resources, please visit: www.nyc.gov/covid19