



COMMUNITY  
ACTION SERVICES  
& FOOD BANK

# FOOD DRIVE FAQ

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## 1. WHY SHOULD I HOLD A FOOD DRIVE WITH COMMUNITY ACTION SERVICES?

We are a trusted and stable community agency that has been serving our community for 50 years. We help hundreds of families every week get back on their feet and better their lives. In addition to our four food pantries, we provide resources and education to really make an impact. We care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping people become self-sufficient.

## 2. HOW DO I REGISTER MY FOOD DRIVE?

Every food drive needs to be registered. This helps everything run smoother for everyone.

[You can register your drive here.](#)

## 3. WHAT ARE YOUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS?

Dry goods (such as flour, sugar, cereals, and pasta), condiments, and canned meats go quickly. Be sure to check out our current [most needed items](#).

## 4. WHAT AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR?

You are responsible for registering your drive, promoting your drive, managing collection containers, and transporting goods if at all possible. It really helps us to maximize our limited resources if you can use your own resources to store and deliver the food.

## 5. DO YOU PROVIDE COLLECTION BARRELS?

If you really want to make an impact, we ask that you use boxes or other containers you may have around. For large food drives (over 800 lbs), the food bank can deliver food collection barrels and pick them up when the food drive is completed. For small food drives, barrels are available and can be picked up at the Community Action Services Food Bank at 815 South Freedom Boulevard, Provo, UT 84601. Barrels and food collections should be returned by the food-drive sponsor. Food-drive sponsors may request delivery and pick-up of barrels.

## 6. DO YOU PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR FOOD-DRIVE CONTAINERS?

We encourage you to use your own transportation if at all possible. Most food-drive containers can fit in the back of a truck.

## 7. CAN I ADD A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO MY FOOD DRIVE?

Yes, please! Monetary donations can go a lot further than you might think. For every dollar donated, we are able to purchase about 15 lbs of food from local grocery stores. That's enough to feed a family of four for a day! Through your generous donations, we can provide our clients with essential items like bread, milk, meat, eggs, and more. You can write a check, donate online, or use some collection buckets that are available upon request.

## 8. IS MY DONATION TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

It is. If you need a receipt, be sure to stop by during business hours. A worker will weigh your donation and give you a receipt. You can use that receipt for your taxes.

## 9. WILL YOU ACCEPT OPEN/PARTIALLY USED FOOD?

It depends. If it's boxed (like cereal, for example) and the inside package is sealed, then yes. For all other foods, we ask that the seal not be broken. Keep in mind that we try to provide as much dignity and respect for our clients as possible, so use good judgment. Ask yourself, "Would I grab this and feed it to my family?"

## 10. DO YOU ACCEPT EXPIRED FOODS?

Yes, as long as the can isn't more than four years past the expiration date. Most cans are still good long after their suggested expiration date. For example, in 2024, we will accept donations with expiration dates through 2020. If the can is oozing, bulging, or missing its label, we recommend you throw it away.

## 11. WHERE WILL MY FOOD AND DONATIONS GO?

Once we receive the food, it is sorted and stocked in our various food pantries. We provide food for several other pantries, senior centers, the Food & Care Coalition, and others. The food serves as a temporary relief for thousands of individuals and families each year. We are also able to provide several other services, such as our financial learning center, the Potluck culinary kitchen, kids nutrition packs, home-buying classes, and more. All these services we provide—with your help—are aimed at helping everyone break free from poverty and become self-reliant.

## 12. WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

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