

Food Donations Q & A

Could you provide us with a list of items that you accept/do not accept?

We accept both perishable and non-perishable food items; prepared foods, produce, and grocery items. We do not accept expired items, food in bulk packaging, glass containers, pastries or cakes, candy, sodas, chips, or junk food in general; food that was served individually, or has been partially eaten, or returned from service. Food served generally (buffet style etc.) is okay if **not** left unattended and if kept uncontaminated. Please only donate food that would be safe or appropriate for yourself or a family member to consume.

What do you do with the food donations we provide to you?

Donated food received is redistributed to individuals and families in need. This food is used in either our soup kitchen, which serves a free meal daily, or food pantries, which provides grocery and produce packages to up 4,000 families per week.

Am I legally liable for providing food donations that result in someone getting sick?

No, The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Act is a Federal Law that protects all food donors from both Civil and Criminal liability when donating "wholesome food", in "good faith" to non-profit organizations that distribute food to the needy. Read the full legislation here: [CONGRESS: BILL EMERSON ACT.](#)

Are the individuals receiving food donations food licensed food handlers?

Yes, as food services organization our staff receive certification and are also required to follow food safety and sanitation protocols.

Are there any additional costs or fees for donating food to New York Common Pantry?

No, while most food rescue organizations charge fees to pickup food, there are no costs from New York Common Pantry to you for donating to us.

Are you able to provide regular reports for our records and tax reporting?

We provide a receipt to you each time we pickup your donations, and NYCPC sends a formal letter of acknowledgement/tax receipt on a quarterly basis if requested.

From whom and from where do you receive food donations?

NYCPC frequently receives food donations from individuals, corporate companies/cafeterias, restaurants, food wholesalers and distributors, and civic organizations.

How often do you receive donations, and do you have a minimum donation requirement?

We receive drop-offs and do pick-ups of one-time donations, donations from food drives, and from weekly donation partners. Our Food Rescue drivers, and fleet of vehicles are available from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday - Friday to pick up food throughout New York City. Food rescue is conducted using vans (refrigerated) and trucks, depending on the type and size of your donation. We ask that donation under 75 lbs are dropped off at our East Harlem location (8 East 109 Street, NYC) and will be happy to schedule a pick-up for donations over 75 lbs. Please contact foodrescue@nycommonpantry.org to set up a pick-up.

How should the food be packaged for donation and transport?

Prepared and semi-prepared foods should be provided in large and small food containers, such as aluminum or plastic pans covered securely with a lid. Non-prepared and packaged grocery items, including bread, must be provided in boxes or bags.

For more information about food donations email foodrescue@nycommonpantry.org. Visit our website at www.nycommonpantry.org.