

Community Food Drive

Did you know that 1.2 million people in New Jersey are food insecure? Help raise awareness about food insecurity in New Jersey and work with local food banks to increase healthy choices for those in greatest need of food.

Find a Food Bank – Locate your local food bank or community food pantry. Partner with them to be the collection facility and distributors of the food.

Organize a Drive – Organize a community food drive. Set a time period for collection and a place where people can bring food. Have a community goal (usually in pounds) to help motivate people to bring food. Encourage people to bring healthy foods, and support them by providing a list of foods that are considered healthy by definition.

Spread the Word – Make sure people know about the food drive and where they can drop off food. Send out emails and put up flyers. Involve the local grocery stores, schools and local community clubs. Collect food at local events – like sports games, county fairs or music festivals.

Spread the Food - Most food banks take care of distribution and many have partnerships with local facilities in need of the food. However, if there is a target location you would like the food to be delivered, discuss it with the food bank. You may also be able to rely on volunteers to distribute the food to areas with food insecurity.

Resources –

[Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit](#)

[List of New Jersey food banks](#)

[Feeding America](#)

[The United States Department of Agriculture](#)

[State of NJ Department of Agriculture](#)

[Community Food Bank of New Jersey](#)

MWC Success Stories:

Bloomingdale, NJ's Walter T. Bergen Elementary School held a food drive from May 20-May 31, 2013. The school held a competition between the classes to see who could collect the most food. A presentation about food insecurity and healthy eating was given by a representative from the Community Food Bank of NJ. Winners of the contest received a healthy lunch! To learn more, click [here](#).

