

COLUMBIA GORGE FOOD BANK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DOES THE FOOD BANK DO?

CGFB is a Regional Food Bank, and part of a statewide network of Regional Food Banks, that distribute food to pantries, shelters and other helping agencies.

CGFB does not distribute food directly to individuals at our warehouse.

The Regional Food Bank is a distribution and command center for food assistance in Wasco, Sherman, and Hood River counties. The CGFB Food Assistance Guide has information about all of the food assistance sites we serve. We are happy to help you find local assistance options. CGFB takes a leadership role in educating the community about hunger, food insecurity and poverty.

WHAT IS A PANTRY VS. A FOOD BANK?

The food bank is a regional distribution warehouse that supplies food to pantries. Pantries open to the public for people to get food.

The terms are confusing because some food banks also have pantries and many pantries refer to themselves as “food banks”. Columbia Gorge Food Bank handles donated food for distribution to pantries and other partners. In the future, we hope to have a larger warehouse building and office space in The Dalles that could also house a pantry in the next few years.

DO I QUALIFY TO GET FOOD?

Our sites do not require proof of ID, address, or income.

Some pantries require a signature declaring that you meet income guidelines (185 % of poverty, in general) or an address to verify that you are in their service area. Some sites ask for an optional donation. Sites may also limit how many times per month clients can receive services.

WHAT IS LINK2FEED PAPERWORK?

Link2Feed is an intake system for faster, more confidential intake and data reports. The responses help us understand our clients.

Some pantries will have Link2Feed paperwork for you to fill out the first time you access the pantry. Most of the questions are optional and are used to understand demographic data about clients. You always have the choice to be anonymous when collecting food.

WHAT CAN I DONATE?

Food and monetary donations keep the food bank operating! All donations fund local hunger relief. Please call us with specific questions about food donations.

In general: non-perishable, labeled food is perfect. We cannot accept dented, rusty, homemade, or alcohol donations. We can accept perishable products, but please call us first to make sure we are able to accept your perishables.

CAN I PICK UP FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR CLIENT?

Yes! Individuals can get food for their household. Authorized Representatives can pick up food for clients by completing a TEFAP Authorized Representative form.

Health worker representatives, friends, or family members can pick food up from pantries for others if they have consent from the client(s) and fill out a TEFAP Authorized Representative Form to present at the pantry (contact the food bank for this form). The pantry must be able to verify the request by phone.

WHERE DOES THE FOOD COME FROM?

We receive food locally from grocery stores, local orchards, farmers, food drives, and food processors.

We also receive food through the Oregon Food Bank and Feeding America networks for USDA Commodities and donations from the food industry.

