

Mobile Food Drop FAQs



- ?** **HOW DOES A MOBILE FOOD DROP WORK?** At a designated location, a food bank truck shows up with pallets of food to distribute and is set out in a line. Those who need extra food line up in their vehicles. Once everything is unloaded and volunteers are ready to go, folks drive through the line and volunteers load a share of each item into your vehicle. That's it!
- ?** **HOW DO I KNOW WHEN A FOOD DROP IS HAPPENING?** Some mobile food drops recur monthly, and others are one-time drops happening within our service area. Watch our Facebook page or website (www.northcountryfoodbank.org) for upcoming food drops. They are oftentimes also advertised in the local newspapers and promoted by the local food shelf.
- ?** **DO I NEED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION?** Yes. Our mobile food drops include USDA commodity items (produce, proteins, and more). Per the requirements, you will need to provide the name, address, and household size for each household receiving food. Several optional questions may also be asked. Staff will walk through the line prior to the start of the distribution to collect this information from you. NO proof or documentation is needed. At subsequent visits, you only need to verify the names for each household to be "checked in" for the food drop.
- ?** **WHAT IS CONSIDERED A HOUSEHOLD?** For this purpose, a household is defined as a single individual or group of related or unrelated individuals who are living as one economic unit and purchase and prepare food together. Food is then distributed PER HOUSEHOLD, not per number of people.
- ?** **CAN I PICK UP FOOD FOR SOMEONE ELSE?** Yes! You can pick up as a proxy for family members, neighbors, or anyone else who needs food but cannot attend the mobile drop themselves. Please come prepared with their name, address, and household information as well.
- ?** **WHERE DOES THE FOOD COME FROM?** Some of the food is donated or excess product from food manufacturers or distribution centers, but a lot of the food is commodity food distributed through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). About 20-30% of the items are typically fresh produce, depending on the time of year.
- ?** **HOW MUCH FOOD WILL I GET?** The answer will vary each month; the amount of food put on the truck, and the number of households that show up is always different (and unknown until the day of). On average, one household can expect to receive a grocery cart worth of food. The food is divided **as fairly as possible** to all households present, but be aware that the quantity of certain items may not match how many households are in line - it is never perfect.
- ★** **Please be respectful to the volunteers!** They are giving their time to help make these drops happen and following directions from staff. If you are interested in volunteering at a food drop, please contact Kristin at kosowski@northcountryfoodbank.org.