



WE ARE THE FOOD BANK

Partner Agency Newsletter

October 2024



From the CPO

Dear Partner Agencies,



As fall settles in, we have a couple of important updates to share.

Thank you to those who attended the recent agency quarterly meeting. I hope it was informative. Remember, per our agreement, your organization must attend 3 out of 4 fiscal-year meetings to maintain eligibility for product distribution. We're also excited to open a new cohort for up to 8 agencies interested in becoming USDA compliant, offering access to a broader range of food. If interested, please email us at agencies@thefoodbank.org.

We're also launching a participant advisory committee to gather feedback and build leadership skills. We're looking for 8 individuals (2 from each county region) to join. Participants will be compensated, so please help spread the word or nominate participants at thefoodbank.org/participant-advisory-committee/.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership!

Josué Barajas, Chief Programs Officer

Agency Network Update

Holiday Chickens

We're pleased to announce the return of cost-shared whole chickens for the holiday season! Agencies can order them at 80% cost sharing through Agency Express 3 starting November. Each case, priced around \$39, contains 10 whole chickens. Contact our Agency Network Team with any questions.

Holiday Distribution Changes

As the holidays approach, please inform our Agency Network Team of any changes to partner agency distribution dates, times, or special holiday distributions so we can update the community. Also, note our holiday closures listed in this newsletter. We'll send reminders, including any order limitations.

Grocery Rescue Cohort Training

The Food Bank will hold a mandatory retraining for all grocery rescue partner agencies on **Tuesday, October 22**, with both morning and afternoon sessions. This will kick off quarterly meetings to build community and share best practices.

Office Hours

October's hours are Wednesday, October 23, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
[Use this link to join the Zoom meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 810 1198 6775

Agency Participation Numbers

August 2024			
County Zone	Est. Unduplicated Households	Est. Unduplicated Individuals	% Change from July '24
North County	11,706	21,434	6.27%
South County	4,831	16,655	-18.68%
San Lorenzo Valley	3,260	6,736	-0.09%
Out of County	673	1,376	-8.08%
Total	20,470	46,201	-5.50%

*45 of 53 (85%) partner agencies reporting as of 9/27/24 - Thank you!

Community Spotlight: Partner Agency Meeting

Our first Partner Agency Meeting for 24/25 was held on Monday, September 16, at the Salvation Army Santa Cruz. Thank you, Denise, for hosting!

The meeting featured a panel on the Participant Choice Distribution Models, highlighting the benefits of offering clients the dignity of choice, fostering community, and reducing food waste. Panelists shared their models, discussed their organizations, and answered audience questions.

We'd like to thank the following participants for their insights:

- Lizzette Ponce, Davenport Resource Services Center
- Paul Machlis, Mountain Community Resources Center
- Phil Hodsdon, Holy Cross Catholic Church Pantry

Consider incorporating more choice into your distribution model if possible.



“From my experience talking to food bank staff and pantry directors over the years, when pantries (and distributions) shift to client choice, 100 percent of the time people say it worked well”

- Katie S. Martin, Reinventing Food Banks and Pantries

Network Action Spotlight: Participant Advisory Committee

Second Harvest is excited to launch a Participant Advisory Committee!

Committee members will act as liaisons between community participants and Second Harvest, sharing their experiences as recipients of food from Second Harvest or its partner agencies in Santa Cruz County. They will attend monthly meetings, advocate for food recipients, and provide feedback on initiatives, policies, and programs that support our mission. Members will also offer input on specific issues identified by the Board, CEO, CPO, or leadership team.

We're seeking recruits for this paid position, which offers \$20/hr up to \$500/year. Please personally invite at least one participant to apply—your recommendation can make a big difference! [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and the online application.



Save the Dates

Please add the following events to your calendars!

We kindly request that agencies update us regarding changes to, or cancellations of, their distributions.

Wednesday, October 23

Agency Network Team Office Hours
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

[Use this link to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 810 1198 6775

Food Bank Holiday Closures

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28
Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 29
Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25
New Year's Day – Wednesday, January 1

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