

1.2

Community Programs: Obtain Donated Fresh Produce for Your Food Program

Advantages

- ❑ You can provide more fresh, locally grown produce to your community
- ❑ New emergency food programs may not be able to obtain foods from the food bank yet, so working with local farms and markets will provide a consistent food source and engage new people in your work
- ❑ It engages farmers in support of your work while reducing waste

Challenges

- ❑ You will only receive produce during the growing season, which varies by location, type of crop, and elevation (from 4-7 months)
- ❑ Your customers may not be familiar with preparation of the produce you receive, so consider offering budget conscious recipes and/or doing cooking demos
- ❑ Fresh produce spoils more quickly so you'll need to make sure you are able to distribute them quickly and have adequate refrigerated storage

Steps to Success

1. Identify local farmers, farmers' markets, and community gardens in your community

- USDA directory of farmers' markets: www.search.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets

2. Register your organization with Ample Harvest

- Ample harvest is a nationwide network that links community gardens to local emergency food programs: www.ampleharvest.org

3. Contact farmers, markets, and community gardens

- Inform them about your program, the number of people you serve, and your needs for fresh fruit and vegetables

4. Determine collection logistics

- Will you be required to collect the donated produce or will it be delivered?
- Establish scheduled times for drop offs and pick ups to ensure they can be processed promptly
- Confirm the amount being donated with each source

5. Keep track of donations

- The amount of produce you receive and donating farm, market, garden, etc.
- Determine whether the donations are meeting your demands, if you are receiving too many donations, etc.

6. Thank your donors!

- Let them know how many people you are able to serve with their donations

1.2

Obtain Produce Donations from Farms, Markets, CSA Programs

Identify potential donors:

Local Produce Sources	Type of Program	Contact Info	Interested in Donating?

Donation Collection Schedule:

	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Donation Source (Time Pick up [P] or Drop off [D])							

Keep track of donations:

Donation Source	Donation Date	Donation Amount	Comments	Thank You Note Sent