



PLANNING A FOOD DRIVE

with Bucks County Opportunity Council
#FeedingOurCommunity

GETTING STARTED

10% of families in Bucks County are food insecure. Many of the local food pantries rely on private donations in order to keep meeting the needs of the community. You can help make a difference simply by hosting a food drive.

HOW TO PLAN

- Establish a drive coordinator/committee
- Collect containers or boxes for donated items
- A drop off location
- Timeline for accepting donations

HOW TO PROMOTE

- Don't forget to tag BCOC!
- (Facebook: Bucks County Opportunity Council -
- Twitter: BCOppportunity -
- Instagram: bcocopportunity
- #BCOC Proud
- #FeedingOurCommunity
- Photos can be sent to foodprogram@bcoc.org.

REGISTER YOUR FOOD DRIVE

Contact us with details of your food drive.
Elizabeth Zbinden, Food Program Manager
Phone: 267-733-0529 ext. 316
Email: ezbinden@bcoc.org

OUR MOST REQUESTED ITEMS

Fruit Juice 100%	Tuna
Breakfast Cereal	Beans
Peanut Butter	Canned Salmon
Canned Chicken	Canned Pasta
Soup	Oatmeal
Applesauce	Rice
Canned Fruit/Vegetables	Pasta

See our Guidelines for Healthy Food Drive Donation for additional ideas.

HOW TO DELIVER

We encourage you to bring your donation directly to BCOC. Please schedule your delivery at least 48 hours in advance by calling 267-733-0529 ext. 316 or emailing ezbinden@bcoc.org. If you are unable to donate the transportation of your food drive, we can coordinate with you to pick up your donation.

PRO TIPS

- You can host a food drive anytime throughout the year, but consider doing so from Jan.-Sept. (Oct. to Dec. are the busiest months)
 - Check for expiration dates and leave out any goods that are expired or almost expired.
 - We can accept monetary donations with food items.
 - Most importantly have fun! Choose catchy names, track your progress, and celebrate your successes!

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHAT'S MOST HELPFUL TO DONATE: FOOD OR MONEY?

Donated food is always welcome! However, money can go much further with our purchasing power. Receiving your donated funds also allows us to purchase food that fills the nutritional gap of donated foods. Receipts for tax purposes are available for in-kind as well as monetary donations.



WHERE WILL MY FOOD DONATION GO?

The Opportunity Council's Food Program is Bucks County's lead food agency for families in need. Our network includes over 60 providers focused on meeting the food and nutrition needs of low-income households in Bucks County.



DO YOU ACCEPT PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS?

Yes, we are able to accept perishable food items. Receiving food at its peak freshness is extremely important because fresh food spoils quickly. During the holidays, frozen turkeys and hams can be donated. Please redeem free turkey coupons prior to donation. If you are a community gardener, we can connect you with the closest food pantry to make weekly donations.



IS THERE ANY FOOD YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT?

Please do not donate the following items: expired items, homemade foods, sugar-sweetened drinks, damaged canned goods, holiday leftovers, and open packages. Glass containers and bulk food items should be avoided.



WILL YOU ACCEPT NON-FOOD ITEMS?

BCOC tries our best to focus on the distribution of food to our network. However, many of partners will accept and appreciate non-food items such as personal care, school supplies, or pet food.



WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO HOST A FOOD DRIVE?

A food drive can last any duration of time. We are able to accept donations all year long but suggest hosting a drive from January to September. October through December tend to be our busiest months.

GUIDELINES FOR HEALTHY FOOD DRIVE DONATIONS

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MOST NEEDED HEALTHY FOOD ITEMS!



FRUITS

- Canned fruit in its own juice
- 100% fruit juice
- No sugar added applesauce



PROTEIN

- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon)
- Beans, canned or dried
- Split peas, lentils, peanut butter



DAIRY

- Shelf stable low-fat milk
- Non-fat dried powder milk
- Dry-grated Parmesan cheese



OTHER ITEMS

- Olive oil, canola oil
- Low sodium/ no salt added broths
- Lemon juice or vinegar
- Spices such as garlic, pepper, cinnamon, oregano, parsley, chili powder or dill



VEGETABLES

- Canned vegetables (low sodium or no salt added)



GRAIN

- Whole grain pasta, brown rice, or quinoa
- Oatmeal or breakfast cereals (whole grain or low sugar)



HEARTY PRODUCE

- Non-refrigerated items, such as apples, citrus fruits, potatoes, onions, garlic, and more!



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Applesauce
Canned Fruit/ Vegetables

Tuna
Beans
Canned Salmon
Canned Pasta and Sauce
Oatmeal
Rice
Dry Pasta