



# CONNECTICUT food bank

A PARTNERSHIP TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER  
www.ctfoodbank.org (203) 469-5000

FARM TO PANTRY PROGRAM



#### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 8686  
New Haven, CT 06531

#### East Haven Headquarters

150 Bradley Street  
East Haven, CT 06512  
(203) 469-5000  
(203) 469-4871 (fax)

#### Fairfield Warehouse

74 Linwood Avenue  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
(203) 256-1935  
(203) 256-1648 (fax)

#### Waterbury Warehouse

56 Eagle Street  
Waterbury, CT 06708  
(203) 759-1919  
(203) 759-1921 (fax)

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A member of **FEEDING AMERICA**

## WHY FARMS PARTICIPATE

*Why We Need a Produce Program*

## WHY FRESH PRODUCE IS IMPORTANT

**HUNGER IS A REALITY FOR 400,000**  
*men, women, and children in Connecticut.*

**NEARLY 1 IN 5 CHILDREN IN CONNECTICUT**  
**IS FOOD INSECURE**, *meaning they do not always know*  
*where their next meal is coming from.*

**WORKING FAMILIES ARE THE MOST**  
**FREQUENT USERS** *of food assistance programs.*  
*At times, even two incomes are not enough*  
*to pay the bills. Families and individuals often must choose*  
*between paying for food or paying for other necessities*  
*such as utilities and medical care.*

*Farm to Pantry is a major Connecticut Food Bank*  
*initiative to **INCREASE THE DISTRIBUTION OF FRESH,***  
**HEALTHY FOOD** *items to people in need. Fresh produce is*  
*extremely nutritious but not always easily accessible by people*  
*struggling with hunger. It is one of the most frequently*  
*requested items by our member programs and moves quickly*  
*out of our facilities.*

*Fresh produce represents the highest volume, lowest cost,*  
*and most nutritious potential food source for **FIGHTING HUNGER.***



## WHO WE ARE

Connecticut Food Bank is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to alleviate hunger. We strive to do this by supplying food products and resources to programs and by promoting public awareness about the problem of hunger. Connecticut Food Bank is the largest centralized source of emergency food in Connecticut and has distributed more than 200 million pounds of food since it was founded in 1982.

## WHAT WE DO

Connecticut Food Bank solicits, transports, warehouses and distributes donated products to approximately 600 hunger relief organizations including soup kitchens, shelters, food pantries, senior centers and adult and children's day programs. We work with Feeding America as well as with advocacy groups such as End Hunger Connecticut!, to promote public awareness about the negative effects of hunger on our communities.

In addition, Connecticut Food Bank operates programs such as Community Pantries, Kids' Backpack Program and Mobile Food Pantry. All of these programs distribute food directly to underserved populations throughout Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London and Windham counties.

## HOW WE DO IT

By developing partnerships with the food industry (growers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers) for excess product, we obtain food that might otherwise go to waste. In addition to surplus products, we receive items that have superficial packaging flaws, or are close to code, allowing us to salvage goods and decrease industry waste. We also participate in community and corporate food drives and USDA commodities programs. The food is then distributed through our member programs and our Mobile Food Pantry distributions.

## THE MOBILE FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM

Connecticut Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry distributes six to eight different nutritional items directly to families in need right in their own neighborhoods each month. Since the program began in April 2010, the Mobile Food Pantry has distributed more than 600,000 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruit, dairy products, whole grain goods and other perishable items.

Among sites the Mobile Food Pantry visits are Bridgeport, Danbury, Hamden, Meriden, Middletown, New Haven, Plainfield, Putnam, Southbury, Torrington, Waterbury and Winsted. For the latest list of sites, visit [www.ctfoodbank.org](http://www.ctfoodbank.org).



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The Farm to Pantry program was designed by Connecticut Food Bank to develop reliable local food channels to help feed Connecticut's hungry while supporting local Connecticut food growers and producers.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### DONATE

We accept nutritious products that are:

- Excess
- Number 2
- Distressed
- Blemished
- Misshapen
- Nearly overripe
- Unsalable
- Processed
- Short coded

### GLEANING

Connecticut Food Bank can provide supervised volunteer groups with materials for gleaning of fields and orchards both midseason and after commercial harvest.

### DEDICATED PLANTING

Plant an extra row or two in your crop fields or vegetable gardens dedicated to feeding your neighbors!

### PARTNERSHIPS

We can partner you with local agencies who will pick up smaller donations such as excess CSA shares at your farm.

Connecticut Food Bank provides a bottom line business solution. We offer:

- Product pick-up with refrigerated equipment
- Receipts for potential tax deductions
- Reduction of costs associated with storage, transport and disposal of edible produce
- Waste minimization and assistance with sustainability

## HELP PROVIDE HUNGRY PEOPLE WITH LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE

I want to be part of the solution to the problem of hunger in Connecticut. Please contact me with information about how my farm can participate in the Farm to Pantry Program.

Please return to:

Kate Ballantine  
 Procurement Coordinator  
 Connecticut Food Bank  
 P.O. Box 8686  
 New Haven, CT 06531-0686

Or e-mail [kballantine@ctfoodbank.org](mailto:kballantine@ctfoodbank.org)  
 or by phone: 203 640-6150 (cell)  
 or 203 460-5000 x336 (office)

Name of Farm \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



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