

Community Food Drive Toolkit

This toolkit provides helpful tips, supply lists and ideas to make your drive a success.



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JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Your generosity helps combat food insecurity and builds a healthier community. Thank you for your support!

Developed 2025

Forest County Food Pantries

Thank you for helping support our community! Hosting a food drive is an important way to help local food pantries provide nutrition and hope to those facing food insecurity. By donating and volunteering, we can work together to build a stronger, healthier community.

Armstrong Creek Food Pantry

7860 Old 101 Rd, Armstrong Creek

Phone: (715) 336-2767

NEWCAP Food Pantry

212 N Lake Ave, Crandon

Phone: (715) 478-3871

Wasmogishek Food Pantry

601 Summit Dr, Crandon

Phone: (715) 478-2730



HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL

In Forest County

WHAT IS NUTRITION SECURITY?

Consistent Access to Healthy Foods

Can I afford groceries?
Can I easily travel to purchase food?
Are healthy foods available in my community?

Food Stability

If I can access and afford healthy food today, can I count on it tomorrow?

Food Utilization

Do I have education about nutrition and the skills to prepare meals?

Nutrition Quality

Is food available to me nutritionally balanced?
Is my food safe?

When communities have consistent access to affordable foods that are nutritional, they can decrease their risk for chronic disease, improve school and work performance, and improve mental health.

In Forest County...

13.2% of residents lack access to food

20% of children are food insecure

32% of residents have an income that makes it hard to meet basic needs like food, housing, and transportation

Barriers to Nutrition Security

- Communities lacking access to affordable nutrient dense foods
- Stigma against receiving support from food assistance programs

Did you know?

Kids who are hungry are at higher risk of behavioral and academic problems.

Adults who experience nutrition insecurity are 2-3 times more likely to have diabetes than those who are nutrition secure.



FOREST COUNTY
HEALTHIER TOGETHER

www.map.feedingamerica.org

www.foodsecurity.wisc.edu

www.odphp.health.gov/healthypeople

Food Drive Tips

Getting involved: Organize a food drive! Collect food and/or monetary donations for our local food pantries.

- **Plan Ahead:** Pick your dates, location, and who you want to invite to participate (employees, customers, community members, friends, etc.).
- **Partner with the Pantry:** Contact the pantry first to learn about their specific needs, donation guidelines, and drop-off instructions.
- **Promote Widely:** Use flyers, social media, newsletters, and word-of-mouth. Include clear information about dates, drop-off locations, and what items are needed most.
- **Make it Convenient:** Place collection bins in high-traffic, easily accessible areas. Consider offering curbside drop-off options.
- **Set a Goal:** Setting a target (e.g., 500 items) motivates donors and creates a sense of shared achievement.
- **Share Updates:** Post progress updates throughout the drive. People like to see how their contributions make a difference.
- **Celebrate and Thank:** Thank participants often, and share the final results after the drive ends. A simple thank-you note or post goes a long way!

Food Drive Supplies

- ☐ Collection boxes or bins (clearly labeled)
- ☐ Posters and flyers (physical and digital versions)
- ☐ Signs for collection sites ("Drop Food Here!")
- ☐ List of most-needed items (print and post near bins)
- ☐ Tally sheets (optional, to track donations)
- ☐ Thank-you notes, social media posts, or certificates
- ☐ Optional decorations (theme-related, seasonal, etc.)
- ☐ Vehicle/storage supplies for transporting donations

Why asking for “Most Needed Items” Matters

Food pantries work hard to offer balanced, nutritious options to families, but not all donations meet these needs.

Encouraging people to donate most-needed items ensures:

- **Nutritious foods** are available for families, supporting better health.
- **Shelf-stable items** stock the pantry longer and are easier to store.
- **Client choice** is improved, meaning individuals can select foods that meet their dietary needs.

When people donate random items from their cupboards, food pantries sometimes end up with too much of one thing (like canned pumpkin or ramen noodles) and not enough of staples (like peanut butter or pasta).

Examples of most-needed items:

- Canned proteins (chicken, tuna, beans)
- Peanut butter or nut butters
- Rice, pasta, whole grains
- Shelf-stable milk or dairy alternatives
- Canned fruits (in 100% juice)
- Canned vegetables (low-sodium preferred)
- Essential cooking ingredients (oil, flour, seasonings)

Tip: Always check with your local pantry to confirm their current list!

Optional Themes

Adding a theme can make your food drive fun and encourage more participation! Here are some ideas:

- **Holiday Cheer:** Focus on gathering foods that help families celebrate holiday meals.
- **Back to Basics:** Focus on staple items like flour, sugar, baking powder/soda, rice, beans, seasonings, etc.
- **Kid Snacks:** Collect kid-friendly foods like granola bars, cereal, fruit cups, applesauce, crackers, and other single serve items.
- **Healthy Harvest:** Encourage donations of lower-sodium, low-sugar, shelf-stable fruits/veggies.
- **Company Competition:** Hold a friendly contest between departments or teams to see who collects the most.
- **Pasta Party:** Promote donations of pastas (whole grain, white, and gluten-free) and a variety of sauces.
- **Soup-er Hero:** Collect low-sodium canned soups and broths.
- **Sunrise Staples:** Focus on oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, granola bars, shelf-stable milk, nut butters, jam/jelly, coffee, etc.
- **Protein Power Drive:** Collect canned meats, fish, and beans, and nut butters.
- **Meal in a Bag:** Request specific shelf-stable items to make a meal kit bag, example: ingredients for a vegetable chili or tuna casserole.

Tip: Always check with your local pantry to confirm their current needs



Making Meals Possible - Thanks to You!

Every food drive, big or small, makes a difference. By planning thoughtfully, partnering with your local pantry, and communicating clearly with donors, your drive can help provide nutrition and hope to families who need it most.

Thank you for supporting your community!

- Forest County Coalition for Activity and Nutrition (CAN!)



Members:

Forest County Division of Extension
Forest County Public Health Department
Forest County Commission on Aging
Forest County Potawatomi Community Health
Crandon School District
Aspirus Clinic
Wasmogishek Food Pantry



Community Food Drive

DID YOU KNOW MANY FOREST COUNTY FAMILIES ARE FOOD INSECURE? MEANING THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE THEIR NEXT MEAL WILL COME FROM. YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP PEOPLE IN NEED HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD.

Non-perishable Foods We Need:

- **Vegetables:** low-sodium canned vegetables and tomato products
- **Fruit:** no-added sugar canned fruits, fruit cups, dried fruit, applesauce, and 100% juice
- **Grains:** pasta, oats, rice, low-sugar cereals, and granola bars
- **Protein:** low-sodium canned chicken, beef, and pork, canned tuna and salmon, beans, nuts, and nut butters
- **Dairy:** shelf stable boxed milk, powdered milk, and dairy alternatives
- **Canned soups:** low-sodium soups that include a variety of vegetables and protein
- **Water**

Please do not donate rusty, dented or unlabeled cans, items within 3 months or past their expiration date, packages that are opened, or home baked and canned goods.

Donations of toiletries and personal care items are also appreciated.

How to Help:

- **Donate Non-Perishables:**

Newcap Food Pantry
212 N Lake Ave, Crandon
Thurs 9am - 3:00pm

Wasmogishek Food Pantry
601 Summit Drive, Crandon
Mon & Wed 11am - 1pm; Fri 5pm - 7pm

- **Give Cash Donations:**

Every dollar counts! Cash donations will be used by our pantries to purchase fresh produce, milk, bread, eggs, meat, and other foods to ensure families receive nutritious options.

For more information, contact us at (XXX) XXX-XXXXX



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Support Your Local Pantry

Donate Most Needed Items Today!

Cooking Essentials oils, flour, seasoning	Shelf Stable Milk	Nut Butters	Breakfast Items Cereal, instant oatmeal, granola bars, fruit cups, applesauce
Canned Vegetables low-sodium preferred	Grains Rice, pasta, whole grain mixes	Canned Fruit in 100% Juice or Water	
		Soups Low-sodium preferred	
Proteins Shelf stable chicken, beef, pork, salmon, tuna, and beans	Please check expiration dates. We only accept unopened, unexpired, non-perishable items. 		

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