

Gaining Ground Grocery Vendor Guidelines

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Who We Are

Gaining Ground Grocery is a project of the Chattanooga Food Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We focus on providing the Chattanooga community with access to fresh, local, affordable produce. We also offer eggs, meat, dairy, and a large bulk selection of products including: beans, nuts, soaps, spices, teas, and other pantry staples.

Who We Partner With

We partner with a variety of entities to provide our community with local, sustainable, and nutritious food. We do require our vendors to be directly growing/producing all of their own products and do not work with resale vendors.

Preferences and Considerations include but are not limited to:

- Proximity to our location (fewer food miles traveled)
- Use of environmentally-conscious farming methods
- Sustainable and/or low-waste practices
- Flexibility for working with a small business
- The needs of the community and customers
- Pricing that aligns with our mission

What You Should Know About Us

We are currently open a limited number of days/hours, have 3 staff members, and operate in a 500-square-foot store. We source our produce from within 150 miles of our store. This means we have small windows of time available for deliveries, and have to be diligent in ordering the ideal quality, quantity, and price point of products for our community.

How Often We Review Vendors

We review incoming requests for vendors on an ongoing basis. New vendors are considered in light of what's currently offered in the store with preferences and considerations (noted above) in mind. We will review the [form](#) you have submitted and respond via email with our decision about taking you on as a vendor. We do keep vendor requests on file for future reference. We genuinely appreciate your interest in our mission and community!

What You Can Expect When We Work Together

We'll reach out to further our conversation, and discuss things like your wholesale pricing, any necessary certifications, and other pertinent details. We'll confirm delivery dates and times, and schedule a site visit to your farm/place of business. Once our relationship is established, we will also provide our best practices for weekly ordering, which will allow us to place consistent orders with you as a vendor. After your products have been in-store for a 90-day trial period, we will review sales to see if they fit our customers needs, determine if we will continue our partnership, and communicate our decision to you.

Hours, Location, and Delivery Schedule

You can find our current hours and location [here](#).

We typically accept deliveries during the following days/times:

- Tuesdays between 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Wednesday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm