

What is Second Harvest?

Second Harvest is the food bank for food banks across the Inland Northwest. A member of the Feeding America Network, we source and distribute healthy, nutritious foods to food pantries and other hunger relief organizations throughout twenty-six counties in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. To serve this territory, we operate two food distribution centers: Spokane and Pasco.

What is a Second Harvest partner?

Partners are groups or organizations that receive food from Second Harvest to fill food gaps within communities in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Second Harvest realizes these partners are uniquely positioned to help their communities through their local connections and are ultimately the ones who get healthy, nutritious foods onto the tables of those experiencing food insecurity.

Are there minimum requirements to become a Second Harvest partner?

We place a high value on providing good customer service to our partners and have food safety standards that we follow to provide the best service to our clients. To make all our partnerships successful we rely on our partners to agree to the following.

- Provide helpful resources to communities through collaboration
- Have a formal, documented partnership with Second Harvest
- Following Second Harvest's food donation and food safety standards
- Have an established line of frequent communication with Second Harvest staff
- Open to feedback from Second Harvest, including additional partnership recommendations
- Ensure anyone attending Second Harvest direct-service programs receive equitable access
- Provide feedback to Second Harvest on how to best meet client needs

What types of partnership does Second Harvest offer?

- **Food Pantry and Meal Program Partners** These are often community hub organizations such as neighborhood pantries, churches, community centers, and schools with existing relationships with their community and clients. These partners provide direct access to healthy, nutritious foods for families experiencing food insecurities. Second Harvest offers donations of food to them through delivery or pick up from one of our warehouses.

This type of partner is committed to the following:

- Have a physical location/building from which to operate
- Have proof of 501(c)3 public charity or approved equivalent IRS tax-exempt status
- Provide easy, no-barrier access to food resources
- Open to the public a minimum of once per week for at least two hours per distribution/meal
- Fills a hunger gap in existing services and should not duplicate services and/or service areas
- Invest in a long-term partnership with Second Harvest, including seeking advice and training on healthy food banking and increasing community health
- Able to safely handle, store and distribute food
- Be open to adopting or expanding a food selection model where the clients can have as much choice as possible (client choice).
- Gather client feedback on preferred foods and share that information with Second Harvest
- Agree to promote Basic Food programming

- Comply with all Second Harvest and Feeding America standards, including client data reporting on an as-needed basis
- **Healthcare Systems Partnerships** Partners of this type are involved in the healthcare industry and help to expand food access to low-income clients experiencing chronic conditions by pairing health services with Second Harvest resources for healthy food, free of cost. These partnerships take various forms, from healthy lifestyle advocacy, produce prescriptions, connecting patients with local food resources and much more.
This type of partner is committed to the following:
 - Promoting healthy eating
 - Addressing root causes of health issues through healthy food education and empowerment
 - Partnering with Second Harvest to promote Second Harvest's Nutrition Education programming and network of neighborhood food pantries and meal programs
 - Educating themselves on Second Harvest's various programs
 - Open to coordinating with local food resources to support client needs
- **Community Food Systems Partnerships** These partners help Second Harvest understand larger themes of hunger in specific communities and informs how Second Harvest acts in regional initiatives for ending hunger. These partnerships also give us insight into how various sectors are thinking about food and health issues, where we might be able to align our efforts, and when we should encourage and support each other. Partnerships of this nature can include but are not limited to: Regional Food Security Coalitions, Accountable Communities of Health, and Food Policy Councils.
This type of partner is committed to the following:
 - Promote healthy eating and food access through regional partnerships with health districts and other nutrition education resources
 - Receive and share feedback directly from the community on what their needs are and if there is a gap in fulfilling needs
 - Collaborate with Second Harvest to identify and target underserved demographics and address food inequities within our service territory
- **Kitchen and Nutrition Education Partners** These partnerships help us support a network of nutrition education efforts throughout our service territory. These partnerships equip us to be regional leaders in Nutrition Education and provide us with the information and training to encourage pantries to adopt healthy food banking practices for their clients. We will tap into our nutrition education expertise to train pantries in healthy pantry practices including client choice and programs to encourage clients to take more whole foods and have healthy, well-balanced diets.
This type of partner is committed to the following:
 - Promote well-balanced and produce-centered meal consumption
 - Help clients build a stronger connection to their food
 - Use Second Harvest equipment and training materials to educate on healthy cooking
 - Seek feedback from clients on ways to improve programming and share that information with Second Harvest
 - Promote the use of the Second Harvest Kitchen website and recipes
- **Food Waste Prevention Partnerships** These partners help us reduce food waste by rescuing fresh produce and other excess unmarketable goods from supermarkets, grocery stores, distribution centers, and quick-service restaurants. They ensure that the foods rescued from retail partners, are

still safe to eat, of good quality and go to feeding people facing hunger rather than ending up in the landfill. In 2020 our food waste prevention partners rescued more than 14 million pounds of food, making Second Harvest the largest food rescue organizations in the region. In some cases, these partnerships also help reduce waste by repurposing unsalvageable products into animal feed or compost.

This type of partner is committed to the following:

- Reducing food waste
 - Rescuing food products from grocery partners and making it available to those experiencing food insecurity
 - OR preventing inedible food products from entering the landfill and repurposing it for animal feed or composting
 - Provide transportation of donated products unless otherwise agreed upon with Second Harvest
- **Direct Service Partners** These partners, including Mobile Market hosts and sponsors, allow us to reach parts of the community that may lack easily accessible food resources. These partnerships help raise awareness of our work with new community partners, reach rural communities, and close inequity gaps within our existing network of food pantries and meal sites.

This type of partner is committed to the following:

- Meet a direct and immediate need in a community by providing a host location, funding and/or volunteers to support direct-service events
 - Assist in promoting Mobile Market events
 - Promote healthy eating through the distribution of fresh produce
- **Specialized Partners** This type of partner helps Second Harvest get food to populations we might not otherwise touch through our existing network of food pantries and meal sites. These partnerships are strategically selected to ensure specialized needs in the community are being met, while avoiding duplication as much as possible. Second Harvest supports these partnerships by providing an extra layer of logistical support such as food box assembly, vehicle rental, or specialized food requests. These partnerships can be defined as “last mile,” “specialized,” or “just in time” and help us act quickly to address specific needs in a community.

This type of partner is committed to the following:

- Focus on meeting the needs of an underserved population
- Focuses on culturally preferred foods and healthy eating
- Must be able to safely handle, distribute and store food
- Provides a strategic plan for how Second Harvest can support its cause
- Preferred but not required: Holds IRS recognized tax-exempt status as a public charity

Want to become a Second Harvest partner? We would love to learn more about your organization and connect you to some next steps. Click [HERE](#) to complete our pre-screen application and a staff member will reach out to you.