



Amherst Survival Center Food Drive Tool Kit

About Our Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is available and free to individuals and families who live in the following 13 towns:

Amherst	Granby	Pelham	South Hadley	Ware
Belchertown	Hadley	Shutesbury	Sunderland	
Deerfield	Leverett	South Deerfield	Whately	

Any person can come in during our open hours and register for the Pantry. Visits to the Food Pantry are limited to once per month, where people shop like they would in a grocery store, making their own choices based on set limits, with a volunteer assistant, rather than receive pre-packaged bags of food. In this way, the Pantry is considered a 'choice pantry'.

Monthly distributions include perishable and non-perishable food, fresh milk, fresh produce, baked goods, and personal care items (when available). The Food Pantry provides food for up to 3-4 days a week per person in each household, once a month.

The food in the Food Pantry comes from a variety of sources:

- Food drives
- The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
- Donations from supermarkets, businesses and local farms

Special Pantry Programs

- **Senior Mobile Pantry:** This program serves seniors in Amherst. Volunteers assemble and deliver personalized grocery bags once a month to senior apartment buildings, the Amherst Senior Center, for easy pick-up. Seniors receive nutritious food to supplement their limited resources.
- **Kids SUMMER Boost:** This program gives families with school-age children (ages 5-17) extra child-friendly and nutritious food, a "summer boost", in July and August, and in every month that has a scheduled school vacation.

Schedule for Our Food Pantry

- Monday, Tuesday, Friday 11:00am-2:45pm
- Thursday 11:00am-6:45pm
- 3rd Saturday of the month 9:30am-11:30am



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What Happens to Food Drive Donations?

FIRST WE WEIGH IT.

When you bring food that's been collected from a Food Drive, the first thing we'll do is weigh it. This will not only tell us how much your drive is donating to us, but it also gives you information you can share in follow-up publicity (on social media, or in emails) with the people who donated to your drive.

THEN IT NEEDS TO BE SORTED AND ORGANIZED.

If you can pre-sort and organize your food drive (by item), this is a HUGE HELP for us. If not, after we weigh it, we will need to sort and organize the items.

Depending on the Pantry's needs, we may shelve it right away for distribution in the Pantry, or we may store it in the basement.

WITHIN ONE WEEK

Some of your food drive donations will likely be put on our pantry's shelves. Within one week after that, a neighbor may have selected it, put it in the grocery cart, and brought it to their home.

