



Dear Food Bank supporter:

The Community Food Bank @ The Center is a flagship initiative that provides nutritional assistance for those in need.

Since 2008, our food bank has been providing fresh produce, baked goods, meat, canned goods, dairy and more to low-income Riverside County residents in need of food assistance. Every Thursday evening throughout the year, The Center hosts a clean, safe and accessible “client’s choice” distribution model at the Food Bank that provides FREE groceries for registered clients.

Food donations are crucial for the existence of our operation and your generosity is highly appreciated. In order to guarantee the highest level of safety in our distribution and being able to provide a balanced nutritional offer, our Community Food Bank @ The Center operates under specific guidelines following Federal, State and local laws & regulations, as well as our own criteria based on the reality of the community we serve.

## Guidelines

The Community Food Bank @ the Center:

- Will only accept food donations for non-perishable items.
- Will not accept food that has previously been served to the public (homemade, hot bar items, food set on the serving line, etc.) or in opened containers or packages, pre-used or re-packaged outside a licensed or regulated food service facility.
- **Will accept food past its expiration date:** Date labeling is not federally mandated (Except for baby formula and some baby foods) and is not an indication of when food is spoiled or inedible.

Facts regarding food expiration labels:

- The labels are not federally regulated and can vary from state to state.
- A primary principle of **U.S. food law** is that foods must be wholesome and fit for consumption, so non-perishable items past the expiration date but otherwise wholesome (closed packaging, not spoiled or growing mold, properly handled and not cross-contaminated) can be donated in good faith and thus without fear of legal liability.
- Food date labels it's an ad-hoc system with no oversight and little consistency.
- “Use by” and “Best before” are just suggestions determined by the manufacturer to indicate when food is at its peak quality.
- “Sell by” is the manufacturer’s suggestion for when grocery stores should no longer sell the product.



## OUR CURRENT NEEDS

For your reference, please find below a list of popular items among our clients at the Community Food Bank @ The Center to help your donation's decision and food drive efforts:

Product	Presentation	Flavors / Types	Notes
PASTA	1 LBS.	ALL VARIETIES	N/A
RICE	1 LBS.	ALL VARIETIES	N/A
DRY BEANS	1 LBS.	ALL VARIETIES	N/A
RAMEN NOODLES SOUPS	SINGLE SERVING – 3 OZ.	ALL VARIETIES	PACKAGED IN 24 SERVINGS/BOX PREFERRED
CUP NOODLES SOUPS	SINGLE SERVING – 2.25 OZ.	ALL VARIETIES	PACKAGED IN 30 SERVINGS/BOX PREFERRED
SIDE PASTA DISH	PACKAGE – 4.3 OZ.	ALL VARIETIES	READY-TO-EAT
CANNED PASTA MEALS	CAN – 15 OZ.	ALL VARIETIES	EASY-TO-OPEN LIDS
SALAD DRESSINGS	BOTTLES (PLASTIC PREFERRED) – 6, 8, 12, 16, 24 OZ.	ALL VARIETIES	N/A
PEANUT BUTTER	16 OZ.	SMOOTH / CRUNCHY	N/A
CANNED FOOD	ANY SIZE	TOMATOES; FRUITS; VEGETABLES; SOUPS; PREPARED MEALS; BEANS; PUREES	EASY-TO-OPEN LIDS PREFERRED
CEREAL	ALL SIZES	ALL VARIETIES	LOW IN SUGAR PREFERRED
BREAKFAST ITEMS	ALL SIZES	OATMEAL; GRITS; PROTEIN BARS; BREAKFAST BARS; GRANOLA; COFFEE	READY-TO-EAT AND/OR EASY-TO-OPEN LIDS PREFERRED
CANNED MEAT	INDIVIDUAL SERVING	FISH; MEAT; HAM; PORK; SAUSAGES	EASY-TO-OPEN LIDS PREFERRED
CRACKERS	ALL SIZES	ALL VARIETIES	LOW IN SODIUM ITEMS PREFERRED
CHIPS/SNACKS	ALL SIZES	ALL VARIETIES	LOW IN SODIUM ITEMS PREFERRED
CONDIMENTS & SPICES	ALL SIZES	ALL VARIETIES	ONLY SEALED AND NON-USED ITEMS CAN BE ACCEPTED
BAKING PRODUCTS	ALL SIZES – 1 LBS. PREFERRED	FLOUR; SUGAR; BAKING SODA, BAKING POWDER; BAKING MIX	N/A