We will connect you to a network of recipient partners to coordinate donation pickups.

Practice Food Safety and Prevent Foodborne Illness
All food preparation and handling processes need to follow food establishment regulations.

For more food safety resources, visit bit.ly/2FztW1E

Thank you for helping us take out hunger!

Phone: 713.274.6445
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
101 S. Richey Suite G
Pasadena, TX 77506
www.takeouthungerhc.org

Ready to donate?
Let’s sign you up!
Contact us at Donations@phs.hctx.net
Provide basic contact information and fill out a participation form.

About Us

DONATE SAFE FOOD.
REDUCE WASTE.
TAKE OUT HUNGER.

The Harris County Public Health Take Out Hunger program provides food safety resources to support your establishment donate food to pantries and community kitchens in Harris County. We are leading the way to comprehensive food recovery to prevent food from ever becoming waste.

IT BENEFITS YOUR BUSINESS!

Tax Deductions
Claim a General or Enhanced Tax Deduction for food donated. The deduction is based on the basis cost or the fair market value of food donated.

Better Planning
By reporting on food donations, your establishment will have a better idea of what foods are produced or ordered in excess and can modify its processes. This can help you identify and control waste.

Getting Recognition
Food donations are good all-around because everyone benefits, and it keeps good food from reaching the landfill. Let others know you are part of Take Out Hunger.

This program is powered by Harris County Public Health’s Public Health Innovations Lab.
What Can You Donate?

- Unopened, commercially packaged food
- Prepared, unserved food
- Whole fruits and vegetables
- Cold food held at 41°F or below
- Frozen foods
- Properly cooked and cooled prepared food

Do Not Donate

- Spoiled food
- Off temperature food
- Severely dented cans
- Damaged or distressed food items
- Prepared food over 6 days old
- Unlabeled food
- Previously served food (e.g. from self-service areas or buffets)
- Food prepared at home

Packaging

Decide how to best package your donation.

DONATED FOODS SHOULD BE SECURELY PACKAGED TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION.

Place food in covered or sealed containers. Consider using food-grade bags, to-go containers or foil trays.

If separating food into portions, package food items into portions that could feed 3-4 people.

AT TIME OF DONATION, THE TEMPERATURES OF TCS FOODS MUST BE AT 41°F OR BELOW.

- Use the Cooling Guide to help ensure proper cooling before or after donations have been packed in portions or in bulk.

Labeling

All portioned and bulk food donations must be labeled with the following information:

1. NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF THE FOOD
2. SOURCE OF FOOD
3. DATE OF PREPARATION

Donating PRE-PACKAGED FOODS (NON-PERISHABLES)

Foods not exhibiting signs of spoilage should be wholesome and may be sold, purchased, donated and consumed beyond the labeled “Best if Used By” date, except for infant formula.

Reporting

As a good practice, record pounds/quantities of food being donated and the temperatures of TCS foods.

Check out takeouthungercrc.org for a PRINTABLE LABEL TEMPLATE.

Check out takeouthungercrc.org for a PRINTABLE DONATION TRACKING FORM.