

Food Pantry Additional Requirements

- **Financial:** The financial needs will be determined by whom you choose to serve (students, families, etc.) and how large the demand is in your area. How do we meet the financial needs of running a Food Pantry without being a drain on the church?
 - Procurement from businesses
 - Procurement from service organizations
 - Procurement from church attendees
 - Grants
 - See "Partnerships" section below
- **Facilities:** There are some realistic, nonnegotiable needs for space.
 - Storage: Food has to be stored somewhere. Is there an unused room or multiuse room that could be used, or could there be a mobile option like a van? Are you going to need electricity for refrigeration or microwaves? Some schools might even have an underused shop building or snack shack.
 - A fixed space is great because it does not have to be set up and taken down. The issue may be access. When can you get into the building, and who else has access?
 - Mobile options are more under your control for accessibility but have to be managed more for food safety. They also take setup management.
 - Distribution: Where will you distribute the food? Ideally, this would be the same place you use for storage.
 - Onsite at a school: Serving students during the school day ensures that you're able to target students through your food program, and eases distribution. It might also be possible to have open hours for families outside of school hours.
 - Portable: Mobile arrangements still allow you to serve students, but having students come to you presents some additional barriers.
 - Offsite/accessible location: This is helpful for serving families without causing unneeded embarrassment for their children. It's also easily expanded to increase the number of schools served. The downsides are that students and families have to travel to the Food Pantry location, and it's more difficult to serve students during the school day.
- **Transportation:** Whenever you are providing a product to customers, you have to transport that product. How will you get the food to your location?
 - Delivery: Some partner organizations may deliver to your location.
 - Pickup: If your church or other organizations you partner with collect food, you can create easy volunteer opportunities by having a team who drives, when needed, to where the donations are being

collected and deliver them to your site. (See *Strategic Planning for Volunteer Organization* document)

- **Purchasing:** If you have collected money or gift cards to purchase food, you can create another easy volunteer opportunity by having a team go shopping and deliver the food to your location.
- **Partnerships:** Many organizations have a heart to serve hungry students and their families. Partnerships multiply your ability to serve. Who can you partner with?
 - Local businesses
 - Clubs (Rotary, Elks, etc.)
 - Other churches
 - Other local food pantries
 - PTA