

EXTRA TABLE FEEDS

PANTRY PARTNER APPLICATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We are excited that you are interested in becoming an Extra Table FEEDS Pantry Partner! We know you may have questions about the application process, what partnership would look like, and what to expect while waiting.

Here are answers to some of the questions we hear most often.

BEFORE YOU APPLY:

1. WHO CAN BECOME AN EXTRA TABLE FEEDS PANTRY PARTNER?

Extra Table FEEDS partners with established food pantries and soup kitchens serving food-insecure Mississippians.

To qualify, your organization must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit feeding organization or an established feeding program operating within a church or civic organization. You must have an active Board of Directors or organizational leadership, established hours of operation, adequate food storage, distribution procedures, volunteers, and a defined geographic service area.

2. WHAT TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT QUALIFY?

Extra Table FEEDS does not currently partner with summer camps, senior adult day care centers, school feeding programs, organizations receiving payment for feeding services, or programs restricted to serving only one particular sector of the population.

Food provided by Extra Table FEEDS must be available to eligible individuals regardless of religious affiliation.

3. DO I HAVE TO BE LOCATED IN MISSISSIPPI?

Yes. Extra Table FEEDS is a Mississippi food bank, and food purchased through our program is intended to feed food-insecure Mississippians.

4. DOES MY ORGANIZATION HAVE TO BE A 501(C)(3)?

Your pantry must either have its own 501(c)(3) designation or operate as an established feeding program under a qualifying church or civic organization.

5. DO YOU PARTNER WITH BRAND-NEW FOOD PANTRIES?

Typically, Extra Table FEEDS does not partner with brand-new feeding programs.

We want our Pantry Partners to have an established operation with policies and procedures, volunteers, community support, appropriate storage, a defined client base, and existing sources of food or revenue. We want our partnership to strengthen a sustainable feeding program—not become its only source of food.

6. DO YOU PARTNER WITH MORE THAN ONE PANTRY IN THE SAME COMMUNITY?

Generally, Extra Table FEEDS partners with one feeding agency per city. There are a few partnerships established prior to this policy that are exceptions.

Even if we already have a Pantry Partner in your community, please stay in touch! We do advise you complete the Pantry Partner Application anyway. From time to time, Extra Table FEEDS receives donated food, Extra Full Red Beans & Rice Meal Kits, emergency food, or other products that may allow us to work with additional feeding organizations.

7. WHAT INFORMATION WILL I NEED FOR THE APPLICATION?

Be prepared to tell us about your organization, leadership, Board, funding, current food sources, hours of operation, number of families served, client eligibility process, geographic service area, storage capacity, volunteers, reporting practices and the sustainability of your feeding program. Don't worry – this isn't as complicated as it sounds! Our goal is to always make your feeding efforts easier!

We want to understand both **who you feed and how you feed them.**

8. WHAT KIND OF STORAGE DO I NEED?

You must have clean, secure and appropriate storage for the food you receive.

Shelving is required, and all food must be stored at least six inches off the floor. Appropriate health and safety procedures must be maintained at all times.

9. WHAT KIND OF FOOD DOES EXTRA TABLE FEEDS PROVIDE?

Extra Table FEEDS fundraises to purchase new, nutritious food in large quantities. Our monthly pantry deliveries primarily include shelf-stable foods such as lean proteins, beans, rice, pasta, oats, fruits, vegetables, soups and other pantry staples.

Products and quantities vary depending on availability, pricing, season and funding.

Every pantry we serve each month receives the same items in the same quantity.

All food that Extra Table distributes is shelf-stable with the exception of chickens at Thanksgiving.

10. HOW MUCH DOES THE FOOD COST OUR PANTRY?

Extra Table FEEDS provides our food to approved Pantry Partners at no cost to the pantry.

Our job is to fundraise, purchase the food and get it where it is needed. Your job is to get that food into the hands of those hungry neighbors in your community.

11. IF WE APPLY, HOW SOON WILL WE BE ACCEPTED?

Submitting an application does not guarantee immediate acceptance.

Extra Table FEEDS receives more requests than we can immediately fund. We typically add 3 new Pantry Partners annually, often in March, and unfortunately, some applicants may remain on our waiting list for an extended period.

Please keep your contact information current with us while you are waiting.

12. HOW DOES EXTRA TABLE FEEDS DECIDE WHICH PANTRIES TO ADD?

We consider three primary factors:

NEED: Where is there significant food insecurity and a need for additional resources?

LOGISTICS: Can we efficiently add the pantry to an existing trucking and delivery route?

FUNDING: Is there designated funding or a donor specifically interested in supporting food for that community?

Local community support is also extremely important. We want every Pantry Partner to have strong roots and sustainable support in its own community.

13. WILL SOMEONE VISIT OUR PANTRY BEFORE WE ARE ACCEPTED?

Extra Table FEEDS will arrange a site visit as part of the application and onboarding process so that we can better understand your operation, storage, distribution procedures and community.

Once accepted, partners should also expect an unannounced site visit from an Extra Table FEEDS staff member or Board Member approximately once each year.

Most importantly, we ask every Pantry Partner Applicant to remember why this partnership exists:

Good food. Responsibly distributed. Getting into the hands of Mississippians who need it.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE A QUESTION?

Never hesitate to reach out.

Extra Table FEEDS

Martha Allen Price's cell 601-447-4667

martha@extratable.org

We want this partnership to work well for your pantry, our delivery team and—most importantly—the Mississippians we are working together to feed.