

Food Banks Canada's Food Handling Program

What is Food Banks Canada's Food Handling Program?

Food Banks Canada's Food Handling Program was developed to provide food banks across the country with training and education about food safety standards. Providing important resources and education about food handling will help to ensure that people needing food assistance receive safe, good quality food, in addition to assuring donors that their food donations are being handled appropriately. The food handling program was developed in cooperation with food banks, leading food manufacturers and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and funding was provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The standards are scientifically based on existing food standards and the Canadian Food Safety Enhancement Program

Over the last number of years, Food Banks Canada, along with the Food Handling Steering Committee worked to identify issues and gaps in food safety practices and to develop recommendations for development of food handling standards specifically for the food banking sector. These food handling standards were piloted at a number of food banks across the country to ensure they were relevant, effective and addressed the varying issues that food banks deal with in handling and distributing food. The standards evolved into core educational materials available for food banks across the country to access and use. Food Banks Canada will also be holding training workshops across the country for food banks to participate in.

The Food Handling Program includes numerous resources available in French and English such as the Safe Food Handling Standards manual, posters, audit forms, donor intake worksheets which will all be augmented by Food Handling workshops rolled out across the country.

What are the components of Food Banks Canada's Food Handling Program?

- Full day in-depth Food Handling Workshops
- Education materials such as the Safe Food Handling Standards Manual (contains in depth information on food handling with focus on food bank operation), facility posters (12 posters that can be used in facilities to provide easy to understand reference to key food handling tips), relevant forms and templates. All materials are available in English and French
- Support from the Program Manager, Food Handling Education

Funding Support provided by:



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



Manitoba
Association of
Food Banks



P.E.I. Association
of Food Banks



About the Food Handling Workshops

This workshop is offered by Food Banks Canada in order to educate the thousands of employees and volunteers who provide essential food assistance to Canadians in need. Understanding the fundamentals of food handling will ensure safety of clients and reduce risk associated with handling food. This workshop will provide:

- A full day training session that covers the Food Banks Canada Safe Food Handling Standards
- Each attendee with the Food Handling Standards Manual, topical brochures and a copy of presentation materials

Why should I attend the food handling workshop?

- To increase capability, consistency and confidence in food handling
- Reduce the possibility of food borne illness
- Ensure safety of clients and integrity of the work of food banks and their agencies
- Opportunity to connect and learn amongst peers in food banking

Who can attend?

Employees and volunteers who work in food banks, food distribution warehouses, hamper programs, meal programs, and other programs that support Canadians who are hungry.

What is the cost?

- It does not cost anything to attend a workshop. Additionally funds are available for Affiliate Member food banks to cover travel costs (speak with your provincial association about the details)
- Lunch will be provided

***For more information contact your
Provincial Food Bank Association or Food Banks Canada***