**Houston Food Bank**

**How A Food Bank Works**

Food comes in to Houston Food Bank from various sources and is inspected, sorted, and stored in our warehouse.

Food is then distributed to our community partners. These partners include pantries, soup kitchens, schools, multi-service centers, and other hunger relief agencies.

Our partners then give out the food directly to those who need it in the community.

*Our mission: food for better lives. Our vision: A world that doesn’t need food banks.*

**Last Year In Review:**

- **18 Counties** served by Houston Food Bank
- **1,800+ Partners** such as food pantries, soup kitchens, meal sites, and shelters.
- **207 Million Meals** of nutritious food made possible

- **35.4% Fresh Produce** out of our total output was distributed to partners and the community
- **18 Million Meals** made possible from HFB’s SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) application assistance

- **8.5 Million Meals** provided to kids through our Backpack Buddy, Kids Cafe, and School Market programs
- **27,746 People** volunteered at least once

*Data from Houston Food Bank’s 2021 fiscal year (July 2020 - June 2021)*

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In addition to distributing food from our warehouses to our partners, we provide additional programs to better support people in the community and help them achieve long-term stability and exit cycles of poverty.

**Backpack Buddy**
Nutritious, kid-friendly food is provided for the weekend for at-risk children in schools grades K-12, as well as at summer meal program sites.

**Community Assistance Program**
Assistance is provided to help community members apply for state-funded social and health services, including SNAP, Medicaid, Children’s Medicaid and others.

**Food For Change**
Food for Change Programs strategically distribute food as a catalyst to motivate clients to participate in partner social service programs with measurable outcomes, such as chronic disease management programs and certain educational courses.

**Kids Cafe**
Healthy meals and snacks, cooked in our on-site Keegan Kitchen, are given out year-round on weekdays, along with nutrition and health education, to kids at after-school and summer meal sites throughout our service area.

**Nutrition Education**
Free classes in nutrition, food safety, meal preparation, and budgeting are taught in collaboration with Houston Food Bank partners.

**Senior Box Program**
A monthly box of food is provided to low income seniors 60 years of age or older.

**School Market**
School-based markets are located on the grounds of a school to provide an easily accessible source of food assistance to students and their families.

**Teachers Aid**
Rather than dip into their own incomes, as is all too often the case, teachers from low income schools can get free school supplies through the Teachers Aid program.

For more information or ways to get involved, visit: [www.houstonfoodbank.org](http://www.houstonfoodbank.org)