

Food Drive

Help feed the hungry June 22 and 23, various locations

For hungry families in Westchester, summer is an especially critical time of year as food pantry and soup kitchen supplies run low. The number of households requesting assistance from the emergency feeding network at Food Bank has gone up 22 percent in the last year alone.

To help address this demand, Westchester County government is once again hosting a two-day food drive. This year, it will be held on Tuesday, June 22 and Wednesday, June 23 at many locations throughout the county.

Many county facilities, libraries, town halls and businesses will have donation boxes available to accept canned and other non-perishable food. Donated food will then be distributed to 181 local organizations, like soup kitchens, shelters and food pantries, by our partner, Food Bank for Westchester or directly to a local food agency.

The list of participating locations is growing. Download the list to view and print. All participating locations will accept your donations on June 22 and 23.

If you are someone who needs help paying for food, you may qualify for food stamps and other benefits. Go to the Westchester County Department of Social Services to see if you qualify. You can find a local pantry or soup kitchen near you by viewing the Food Bank agency directory or calling the Food Bank at (914) 923-1100.

Municipalities or businesses wanting to organize their own food drive or anyone wanting more information about the county's effort can contact Westchester County directly at 914-995-2000 or go to www.westchestergov.com.

The most needed food items are:

- Cereals: hot or cold (corn flakes, frosted flakes, fruit loops, oat meal, grits)
- Meats and high protein groups
 - o Canned meats: spam, ham, meat spread, beef stew, chicken, and corned beef
 - o Canned fish: tuna, salmon, sardines, mackerel
 - o Canned or dry beans: kidney, lentils, butter beans, great northern, lima
 - o Canned soups: with beans, chicken, ham or beef
 - o Peanut butter
 - o Macaroni and cheese
 - o Canned ravioli
 - o Canned spaghetti & meat balls
- Beverages
 - o Drink mixes: iced tea, Kool Aid, Tang
 - o 100 percent juices in plastic bottle or can
 - o Milk: canned or powdered
 - o Canned juices

- o Coffee or tea
- o Hot chocolate
- Fruits and vegetables
 - o Canned fruits
 - o Canned vegetables
 - o Canned spaghetti sauce
 - o Dried fruits: raisins, apricots, prunes
- Pasta and grains
 - o Rice: rice mixes and plain rice
 - o Pasta: pasta mixes and plain pasta

Health and beauty supplies are also being accepted.