



Frequently Asked Thanksgiving for All Questions

Each year, Connecticut Foodshare raises community support to provide Thanksgiving food for our partner program network so that neighbors all across Connecticut can participate in the holiday. Our *Thanksgiving For All* campaign relies heavily on the generosity of the community, and we work tirelessly to raise as many donations as we can – including actual turkeys and financial contributions to help cover the costs of the turkeys and produce that Connecticut Foodshare purchases for the holiday. We are grateful to support our partner program network this Thanksgiving season as an added benefit to our year-round partnership. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions to help you prepare for this holiday season.

What programs are eligible to receive Thanksgiving food from Connecticut Foodshare?

Connecticut Foodshare provides Thanksgiving food to partner food pantries that distribute groceries, as well as soup kitchens and emergency shelters that prepare meals. Programs in these categories that failed to report 8 or more months of program statistics were not given a Thanksgiving allocation.

What type of food will Connecticut Foodshare distribute to partners this Thanksgiving? Are there sides?

Connecticut Foodshare hopes to provide turkeys, gift cards, and TEFAP Chickens along with white potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, and onions. If there are other items you want to provide such as gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, or other sides, we recommend that your organization hold food/fund drives to obtain these items.

How does Connecticut Foodshare decide how much Thanksgiving food to allocate to each partner program?

It's our goal to distribute our limited Thanksgiving donations as equitably and fairly as possible to reach partners and neighbors all across the state. Each program was allocated 50% of the amount they received last year, plus an additional allocation based on the program statistics you provided us over the last 12 months. As such your program may see a change from last year. If the change is significant, it is because the number allocated in previous years was very different from the number of households your program currently reported serving. This change will continue next year when your program's allocation will be based solely on monthly program statistics.

Our program needs more Thanksgiving food than what Connecticut Foodshare has allocated us. What do we do?

The September allocation email contains a link to a form to complete that allows programs to request additional product if it becomes available. We also recommend that your organization hold food/fund drives to obtain any additional food needed. **Please remember that the Thanksgiving food we provide is intended to help you offer a special meal to the people who use your programs throughout the year. It is not intended to cover expanded Thanksgiving distributions that some programs take on for the holiday.**

When is Connecticut Foodshare distributing Thanksgiving food to partner programs?

Connecticut Foodshare distributes Thanksgiving product from the Tuesday a week before through the Tuesday the week of Thanksgiving. We may be able to provide some turkeys earlier than that, but no produce will be available early.

Will Thanksgiving orders be delivered to my program?

Thanksgiving orders may be delivered to your program on your regularly scheduled delivery day and time. The September email includes a suggested delivery or pick up appointment based on what your program had last year. If your program needs your Thanksgiving food at a specific time, we recommend you pick up your product at one of our distribution centers.

Our program cannot pick up the turkeys on the day that's been assigned to us. What do we do?

The September email includes a link to complete a form where you will be able to request a different day and time. We will try our best to accommodate your request.

During the week of Thanksgiving, can I place a regular non-Thanksgiving food order?

Regular online orders for pickup and delivery can be placed Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22, Thanksgiving week.

Where does Connecticut Foodshare get its turkeys from?

Connecticut Foodshare purchases some turkeys and gift cards, but we rely heavily on corporate and community donations in order to meet our goal of providing a holiday meal for 50,000 households.

Does Connecticut Foodshare require us to maintain a list of who is receiving Thanksgiving food at our program?

No, but if you choose to do so we have some optional forms that may be helpful. Printable version [HERE](#) and Excel version [HERE](#). However, please remember to include the households/individuals served at Thanksgiving in the regular monthly statistics that you provide to Connecticut Foodshare.