

## Starting a Food Pantry

Thank you for thinking about supporting your community by providing food to people at risk of hunger. AzFBN regional food banks serve more than 1,000 agencies and pantries throughout Arizona.

Collectively, this network distributes nearly 150 million pounds of food each year. Below are a few key resources to get you started.

### Step 1 - Find your Regional Food Bank

To make sure we can get food to every county in the state, each regional food bank serves specific geographic regions. Visit [Feeding America's Find a Food Bank Page](#) to find your regional food bank.

### Step 2 - Contact your Regional Food Bank

Follow the below links to get information for your regional food bank and contact them with your interest:

[Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona](#)

[St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance](#)

[United Food Bank](#)

[Yuma Community Food Bank](#)

### Helpful tips

Food banks are here to support organizations interested in starting a food pantry. Some key things to consider:

- Your organization must be an IRS certified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or faith-based equivalent (or a program that is part of one).
- Your organization should be prepared to get all required business licensing appropriate for your city, county, or the state of Arizona.
- Your organization should be prepared to meet all necessary health and safety requirements designated by your city, county, or the state of Arizona.
- It's helpful to make sure you have sustainable funding to support your program. Check out the Workshops and Webinars pages of this website for information that can help.

Questions? Please e-mail [info@azfoodbanks.org](mailto:info@azfoodbanks.org)