

REVISED 2/15/2011



Developed from the Agency Membership Handbook Approved by the AHRA Board of Trustees August 28, 2006

HARVEST REGIONAL FOOD BANK **MEMBER AGENCY APPLICATION**

Table of Contents

Introduction	
I. Agency Application Fee Agreement	
II. What's Available at the Harvest Regional Food Bank?	5
III. Membership Application Process	6
Part 1. Completing and Submitting the Application Packet	6
Part 2. Document Review and Site Visit	
Part 3. New Member Orientation and Shopping at the Harvest Reg	
IV. Agency Application Checklist	7
V. Harvest Regional Food Bank Membership Application	
Organizational Information	
Program Information	9
Emergency Food Pantry	
Soup Kitchen/Shelter	
On Site/Residential/Kids Cafe	
Day Care Program	
Physcal Facilities Information Error! Book	
Transportation Information Error! Book	
VI. Harvest Regional Food Bank Membership Criteria	
VII. Harvest Regional Food Bank Church Qualifier Form	
VIII. Harvest Regional Food Bank Authorized Personnel Information	
IX. Acknowledgement of Ordering Procedure and Food Bank Rules	
X. Memorandum of Agreement	

Introduction

Thank you for considering becoming a member agency of the Harvest Regional Food Bank. Several policies, practices, and procedures are required of all Food Bank member agencies. The purpose of this Member Agency Handbook is to describe the requirements and provide information on how to have a successful program.

Harvest Regional Food Bank is dedicated to help eliminate hunger by providing nutritious food to those in need through our network of recipient program. Our recipient programs include pantries, emergency shelters, soup kitchens, day care centers, low-income senior meal programs, after school programs, backpack programs for needy children and multi-service neighborhood programs and shelters. Harvest Regional Food Bank is a not-for-profit organization under Internal Revenue Service Code 501 (c)(3). The Food Bank is a member in good standing of Feeding America – The Nation's Largest Food Bank Network (formerly America's Second Harvest), a founding member of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and a United Way agency.

In order to be a member agency of Harvest Regional Food Bank, your organization must be an established non-profit as defined by the Internal Revenue Service. This means your organization must be a designated 501(c)(3), be wholly owned by an organization with this designation, be sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization, or qualify for the IRS equivalent for religious organizations. Non 501(c)(3) religious organizations must meet nine (9) of the 14 IRS eligibility requirements. A form describing these requirements is included in this packet.

Please take the time to carefully read the information and follow the instructions provided. If you have questions about meeting the non-profit requirement or about the application process, please contact Harvest Regional Food Bank at 870-774-1398.

You are commended for your efforts to help those in need in your community. We look forward to assisting you in your endeavors.



Agency Application Fee Agreement

Approved by the Harvest Regional Food Bank Board of Directors 2/15/11

Any application for membership to Harvest Regional Food Bank, Inc. must be accompanied by a check for <u>\$50 drawn on an account held by the sponsoring tax-exempt organization</u> as an application fee. Agencies inquiring about becoming a member may receive the Membership Handbook and Application without paying the fee. However, the fee must be paid upon return of an application and before any visit for food safety and inspection or further processing of the application.

This application fee may be refunded, as a credit on the new agencies account for future orders, <u>at the agency's request</u>, after 4 orders have been received and paid in full. These orders must take place within the first year of membership. Cash refunds will not be provided.

The Executive Director of Harvest Regional Food Bank, Inc. has the discretion to waive the application fee for an agency. This waiver may be due to reasons such as, but not limited to, the agency's location in an underserved community or the agency's prior history of service.

Signature of Representative

Date

What's Available at the Harvest Regional Food Bank?

A variety of food and non-food products are available in the Harvest Regional Food Bank warehouse. Examples of the products we distribute are fresh and frozen foods, canned goods, paper products, cereal, beverages and cleaning supplies. Availability depends on what is donated or otherwise procured; therefore, the inventory may vary greatly from week to week.

A member agency of Harvest Regional Food Bank may be eligible to receive products for <u>ONE or ALL</u> of the following programs:

- Emergency Food (food pantry that provides groceries, cleaning supplies and personal care items)
- Soup Kitchen/Shelter (cooking or serving meals to walk-in guests on a regular or occasional basis and/or providing temporary, emergency lodging)
- On Site/Residential (cooking or serving meals to a registered clientele, e.g. a day care, detoxification center, half-way house, group home, day activities program, youth or senior program)
- Disaster Relief

If you have questions about what is available at the Harvest Regional Food Bank and how your program might be supported, please contact us at 870-774-1398.

Membership Application Process

Provided below is a step by step process for becoming a member in good standing of the Harvest Regional Food Bank. Please follow this process to ensure that you submit a complete and thorough application packet. The process is divided into three parts:

Part 1. Completing and Submitting the Application Packet

- 1. Review all membership criteria and indicate agreement to comply by signing and dating the document. (Signer must be a member of the organization and authorized to enter into this agreement).
- 2. Complete ALL appropriate sections of this application and all applicable attachments. If a section does not apply, please write N/A.
- 3. Include with this application a photocopy of the IRS letter of determination stating that your agency has 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.
- 4. Religious organizations must include either the IRS 501(c)(3) letter OR a letter from the denomination's headquarters stating that your organization is in good standing in that denomination. A church qualifier form, which requires backup documentation, is included in this packet.
- 5. Return the completed and signed application, signed membership criteria form, tax-exempt status documentation or church qualifier form (and attachments) and authorized personnel form.

Part 2. Document Review and Site Visit

- 1. Once the packet is received, an evaluation team will review the information provided and determine how Harvest Regional Food Bank can best serve your agency and the community.
- 2. During the review process, a Harvest Regional Food Bank representative will visit your site, examine program procedures, and attempt to confirm that you can maintain appropriate food storage, handling, record-keeping, and distribution standards, as well as meet all membership criteria.
- 3. Upon completion of a successful site visit, you will be given a legal document called a "Memorandum of Agreement" to review and sign. This signed document must be received by Harvest Regional Food Bank before a new member orientation will be scheduled.

Part 3. New Member Orientation and Shopping at the Harvest Regional Food Bank

- 1. After the signed "Memorandum of Agreement" is received, your agency will be given a Member Handbook.
- You and all others who will be shopping at the Harvest Regional Food Bank must attend a mandatory orientation session. During this training we will complete basic Food Safety training (agencies handling prepared foods must provide documentation of certified Food Manager training). A list of authorized shoppers will be kept on file at the Harvest Regional Food Bank office. We will provide the Warehouse and Shopping Procedures.
- 3. You will be given a tour of Harvest Regional Food Bank and meet Harvest Regional Food Bank staff members.
- 4. Handling fees may be charged for some food and grocery products. Method of payment of these fees will be determined at the time your agency becomes a member of Harvest Regional Food Bank.

Agency Application Checklist

Please feel free to use this checklist to make sure you have all the documentation needed for your application.

- _____ Membership application form completed and signed
- _____ Membership Criteria, completed and signed to indicate the criteria are understood and agreement to comply
- _____ Church Qualifier Form, completed, if applicable
- Copy of IRS Letter of Determination of Tax-Exempt Status or proper documentation for religious group (letter from denomination or church qualifier form with attachments)

Date of Application: _____

Organizational Information

Please provide all information that applies to your program.
Name of Organization:
Name of Food Program (if different):
Mission of Organization:
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Date Organization Established:
Organization Mailing Address:
County:
Physical Address of Program (if different from organization address):
Phone Number: Fax Number:
Website Address:
Name of Agency/Organization Director:
Address:
Phone Number: Fax Number:
E-Mail Address:
Name of Contact Person (if different from Director):
Position:
Address:
Phone Number: Fax Number:
E-Mail Address:

Name of Food Coordinator (if diff	erent from above):	
Address:		
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	
E-Mail Address:		
Billing Contact:		
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	
E-Mail Address:		
Parent Organization (if your prog	ram is part of a separate organization):	
Contact Name:		
Address:		
	Fax Number:	
website Address:		

Program Information

Date Program Established:
Types of Service (check all that apply and complete all applicable sections below): Emergency Food Pantry Soup Kitchen/Shelter On Site/Residential Day Care Program
How do people learn about your services?
What is your total annual budget for food and grocer products?

Regular Days and Hours.	
Are referrals required: Ye	es No
If yes, please list agencies:	
Are appointments required?	YesNo
Who should people call for help?	
Name	
Phone Number	When (Hours/Days)
Which items do you distribute? (Check all that apply.)
Dry Goods (canned food, b	boxed foods, bottles)Dairy products
Fresh fruits/vegetables	Non-food items (soap, tissues, hygene, etc.)
How many people do you serve e	each month?
Do you provide delivery to client	s? (if so, please describe)
Are people that are receiving foo	d (check all that apply):
asked to donate?	required to attend services?
required to work?	required to provide any other partici
	or service to get food?
List aligibility requirements for i	ndividuals to receive donation:
How often may an individual rec	eive food?

<u>Soup Kitchen/Shelter</u> (cooking or serving meals to *walk-in guests* on a regular or occasional basis and/or providing temporary, emergency lodging)

•	
What meals are served?	
Describe people who are served?	
How many people are served at the average meal?	
Are any of the meals catered? Yes No	
If yes, by whom?	
List names of staff who work with food:	
Do you have a health certificate from the local Department of Health	th?
YesNo	
List eligibility requirements for people who are served:	
List eligibility requirements for people who are served:	
List eligibility requirements for people who are served:	
Who should people call for help?	
Who should people call for help? Name	
Who should people call for help? Name Phone Number When (Hours/Days)	

<u>On Site/Residential/Kids Cafe</u> (cooking or serving meals to a *registered clientele*, e.g., detoxification center, half-way house, group home, day activities program, youth or senior program)

lumber	of people in program: Number of staff:
ays and	times of operation:
Ieals Se	erved (check all that apply):
_	Breakfast
_	Snack
_	Lunch
_	Dinner
_	Occasional party
icenses	and numbers:
_	Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services
_	Division of Children & Families
_	Food Service License
_	Other - Please specify:
re any	meals catered? Yes No
I	f yes, which ones?
Vhat is	the tuition or program fee?
/hat are	the funding sources for this program?

Day Care Program (serving meals and or snacks to either children or adults enrolled in day care program)

- Type of program (see list above): _____
- Number of people in program: _____ Number of staff: _____
- Days and times of operation: ______
- Meals Served (check all that apply):
 - _____ Breakfast
 - _____ Snack
 - _____ Lunch
 - ____ Dinner
 - ____ Occasional party
- Licenses and numbers:
 - _____ Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services
 - _____ Division of Children & Families
 - _____ Food Service License
 - _____ Other Please specify:______

If any of the above programs are already in a the program is not yet underway, please indi	operation, please provide the following information. If cate <u>anticipated</u> numbers.
Type of population served: Transient Ye	outh
	ther (describe)
Number of <u>unduplicated</u> households served:	Number of <u>duplicated</u> households served:
Daily	Daily
Weekly	Weekly
Monthly	Monthly
Annually	Annually
Number of <u>unduplicated</u> individuals served:	Number of <u>duplicated</u> individuals served:
Daily	Daily
Weekly	Weekly
Monthly	Monthly
Annually	Annually

Physical Facilities Information

Are you able to close, lock, and secure the area where the food and products are stored? _____ Yes _____ No

Storage Capacity:

Cubic feet refrigerated_____Cubic feet frozen_____Square feet dry storage_____

Do you have a walk-in: ______ freezer _____ refrigerator _____ cooler? None: _____

Do all storage areas meet State Department of Health requirements? ____ Yes ____ No

Is someone in organization certified in food safety? _____ Yes _____ No *** If yes – provide copies of certification ***

Transportation Information

Please describe your means and/or method(s) of transporting food and grocery products to your agency and to clients.

(Please Print)	
Name of person completing application:	
Title:	
Signature of person completing application:	
Date:	

Membership Application must be accompanied by the following completed attachments, as applicable:

Attachment A:	Membership Criteria	(Required from all Applicants)
Attachment B:	Church Qualifier Form	(for Non-501(c)(3) entities)
Attachment C:	Shopping Authorization Form	(Required from all Applicants)
Attachment D:	Acknowledgement of Ordering Procedure and Food Bank Rules	(Required from all Applicants)

ATTACHMENT A

Harvest Regional Food Bank Membership Criteria

The following criteria must be agreed to and complied with for your agency to become and remain a member in good standing of Harvest Regional Food Bank. An official representative of your agency is required to complete and sign this agreement signifying that the following membership criteria are understood and will be faithfully met. If you have questions, a Harvest Regional Food Bank staff person will go over each of these criteria with you.

If for any reason any of the criteria are not being met, Harvest Regional Food Bank should be notified as soon as possible.

Does your agency meet the following criteria? (Please check each statement to confirm agreement.)

- 1. Is incorporated and operating as a private non-profit organization or under the umbrella of such an organization and is established in the community.
- 2. Qualifies under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code or meets the definitional requirements of the IRS code to qualify as a church.
- _____3. The agency agrees that it will not engage in discrimination, in the provision of service against any person because of race, color, citizenship, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation including gender identity, unfavorable discharge from the military or status as a protected veteran.
- 4. Will <u>not</u> sell, transfer, barter, nor offer for sale the items supplied by Harvest Regional Food Bank in exchange for money, property, goods, or services, or otherwise allow items to re-enter commercial channels.
- _____ 5. Will use all items drawn from the Harvest Regional Food Bank <u>only</u> in activities included in its tax-exempt purpose and solely for feeding people who are ill, in need, or infants.
- 6. Will provide sanitary, reliable, and product appropriate transportation and sufficient personnel to pick up food at the Harvest Regional Food Bank warehouse.
- 7. Is licensed by the state and/or city as a food service establishment according to the service provided and will notify the Harvest Regional Food Bank of any changes in licensing status.

- 8. Has adequate storage and refrigeration and freezer space to ensure the wholesomeness of the food until it is used.
- 9. Agrees to safely and properly handle the donated goods, which conforms to all local, state, and federal regulation.
- 10. Will accept food in "as is" condition and agrees to inspect such items, withholding from distribution and/or consumption any food that might be spoiled or inedible.
- 11. Will immediately discard any unfit food and advise Harvest Regional Food Bank. (Your agency is not responsible for hidden, unobservable defects.)
- 12. Will maintain records on the receipt, distribution, and use of products from Harvest Regional Food Bank sufficient to provide a clear audit for such products for at least 36 months <u>after</u> the receipt of such products.
- 13. Will permit representatives of the government and Harvest Regional Food Bank to inspect records described in item 12.
- 14. Agrees to regular monitoring by a Harvest Regional Food Bank representative, or an affiliate thereof, to verify compliance with these criteria and the information provided on the agency's application and monthly reports.
- _____15. Will support the operation of the Harvest Regional Food Bank by paying a handling fee on a per pound basis for applicable products.
- 16. Understands that food received is a gift and not the result of any sales transaction; and as such, acknowledges that no express warranties are given and no implied warranties apply to the nature and condition of the food.
- 17. Affirms that the original donor, Feeding America, Harvest Regional Food Bank, Inc., and its affiliates are held harmless from any claims of liability or obligations in regard to the products received by the agency.
- 18. Will destroy and/or discard any food upon notice from the Harvest Regional Food Bank or original donor that such food may not be fit for human consumption.
- 19. Will notify Harvest Regional Food Bank whenever notice of any claim of liability with respect to food is received.
- 20. Will observe and implement any use-of-product restrictions placed on items by Harvest Regional Food Bank at the request of the original donor.

21.	Assumes any and all responsibility for food product liability relating to any act or failure to act by the agency associated with the distribution, storage, preparation, or service of food after the agency assumes possession of the food.
22.	Will not use donated products for the purpose of fundraising.
23.	Will submit a monthly report by the 10 th day of the following month.
24.	Never charges clients for food.
25.	Never requires clients to pray, donate, or work to eat or receive products.
26.	Will order and pick up products at least 4 times per year, unless deemed to be a special program approved by Harvest Regional Food Bank.
27.	Will be open at least 1 day per week for a minimum of 4 hours, unless deemed to be a special program approved by Harvest Regional Food Bank.

I understand these membership criteria and, as an authorized representative of

_____ (Agency), will ensure

that these criteria are faithfully met. I also acknowledge receipt of the Harvest Regional Food Bank

Agency Handbook. If for any reason any of the criteria are not being met, I agree to notify the Harvest Regional Food Bank as soon as possible.

Signature of Representation

Date Signed

Print Name and Title

ATTACHMENT B

Harvest Regional Food Bank Church Qualifier Form

The Internal Revenue Service uses 14 characteristics to determine whether an organization qualifies as a church. In accordance with this provision, Harvest Regional Food Bank adopted a policy requiring a program operating under an organization which functions as an unincorporated church to meet **at least nine** of the following characteristics. <u>Each item checked must be proven</u> with copies of printed material from your church, and these materials must be included with your application. Examples of items that your church might use as evidence to satisfy legal requirements are given below. <u>Check each characteristic that applies to your church</u>.

1. A distinct legal existence <i>Example: Articles of Incorporation filed with the State</i>
2. A recognized creed and form of worship <i>Example: Cover page and two pages of creed, copy of church bulletin</i>
3. A definite and distinct ecclesiastical government Example: Organization chart of parent organization as well as local church, indicating names and addresses of officials
4. A formal code of doctrine and discipline Example: Copy of cover and first three pages of document
5. A membership not associated with any other church or denomination Example: Statement of mission, objectives and goals of the church signed by the pastor and three others
6. A distinct religious history Example: If member of recognized association, a copy of the church bulletin; if not associated with other churches, a brief written history
7. A complete organization of ordained ministers ministering to their congregations Example: Church bulletin or other published document listing ministers
8. Ordained ministers elected after completing prescribed courses of study <i>Example: Appropriate documentation indicating ordination and courses</i> of study
9. A literature of its own <i>Example: Copy of selected cover pages of appropriate literature</i>
10. Established places of worship <i>Example: Copy of church bulletin</i>
11. Regular congregations Example: Copy of church bulletin
12. Regular religious services <i>Example: Copy of church bulletin</i>
13. Sunday schools for religious instruction of the young Example: Copy of church bulletin indicating times for Sunday School
14. Schools for the preparation of ministers Example: List of names and addresses of schools

ATTACHMENT C

Harvest Regional Food Bank Authorized Personnel Information

Date:	
Name of Agency:	
Contact Person:	
Address:	
Telephone: E-Mail Address:	
The names and signatures of the persons belo (agency na	ow are authorized by
	res indicate they have read and understand Harvest
Print Name	Signature

Please inform Harvest Regional Food Bank as soon as any changes are made in your agency's list of people authorized to pick up products at Harvest Regional Food Bank.

ATTACHMENT D

Acknowledgement of Ordering Procedure and Food Bank Rules

ORDERING PROCEDURE

Order forms will be updated weekly or more often as product selection changes significantly. The new form will be emailed to the email address(s) listed under the Organization Information of the application. If a current order form is needed, please call Harvest Regional Food Bank at (870) 774-1398.

Place your order with Harvest Regional Food Bank by fax at 870-774-1905 at least one day before desired pick-up. Requested pick-up times are not guaranteed until a final appointment time is scheduled.

When your order is received, warehouse staff will call you to set up an appointment. While you are there, you are free to browse the shopping area (including freezers and refrigerators). Note that some items in the refrigerators and freezers may already be reserved. All unreserved items are available first come first serve by appointment times. Items in this area are charged up to 19 cents per pound Shared Maintenance Fee.

FOOD BANK RULES

For their safety, children under the age of 16 are not allowed in the warehouse while picking-up food orders. They must remain in the vehicle if they accompany you on your trip to the Food Bank. Animals are not allowed on the premises or in vehicles that are being used to transport food. Orders will not be released if animals are present. We appreciate agencies bringing extra help to load their orders. Up to 3 helpers per agency are permitted. All food must be transported in vehicles adequate for this use. The Food Bank reserves the right to refuse to load a vehicle that is deemed to be unsafe to drive or unsanitary to transport food. Harvest Regional Food Bank may provide assistance in loading and securing orders in agency vehicles when available. However, Harvest Regional Food Bank does not assume any responsibility for the safety or security of the load. The driver of the vehicle assumes all responsibility for the final security of the load and its impact on the ability to drive the vehicle safely.

Agency Name

Representative's Signature

Date

Memorandum of Agreement

To be completed after application and site visit with Harvest Regional Food Bank Personnel

This memorandum of agreement is entered into between the Harvest Regional Food Bank and (agency name). This agreement is binding unless renegotiated by both parties and an amended agreement signed by representatives of both parties.

Under this agreement, the Harvest Regional Food Bank will:

- 1. Seek and develop resources for food donations on behalf of
- 2. Provide and maintain a central warehouse for food storage and distribution.
- 3. Provide types and quantities of food and grocery product inventory.
- 4. Not interfere with the internal affairs of ______

Under this agreement, ______ will:

- 1. Meet ALL criteria of Harvest Regional Food Bank participation as set forth in the application packet and handbook.
- 2. Contribute to the support of the Harvest Regional Food Bank through a handling fee applied per pound of food and grocery products received for applicable products, if required.
- 3. Designate authorized, informed persons to select products from the Harvest Regional Food Bank and to notify the Harvest Regional Food Bank as changes occur.
- 4. Provide adequate transportation and personnel to pick up and load Harvest Regional Food Bank products.
- 5. Never sell or trade any Harvest Regional Food Bank products.

Under this agreement, the Harvest Regional Food Bank and _____

are committed to the following values:

- 1. Integrity We will be open and honest in all relationships, dealings, and transactions.
- 2. Stewardship We will maximize and wisely use our resources for the long-term benefit of the community.
- 3. Accountability We will set clear standards against which to measure competence, efficiency, effectiveness, and accuracy.
- 4. Service We are committed to providing excellent service. We will continue to strive to study, understand, and meet challenging needs with competence and compassion.
- 5. Partnership We will strive to collaborate, network, and enhance hunger relief efforts in Arkansas.

Harvest Regional Food Bank Representative Signature

Agency Representative Signature

Print Name & Title

Print Name & Title

Date: _____

Date: