

## Healthy Pantry Initiative Donation Policy

**Because:**

(Name of Partner) is dedicated to reducing hunger throughout (name of county/state) by providing resources to low- and moderate-income individuals through food pantry distributions.

**Because:**

(Name of Partner) is concerned about improvements in health for individuals with dietary illnesses and/or dietary restrictions (i.e., prioritizing an increase of fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats and decrease in sweetened beverages and snacks). Certain important foods are often in short supply.

**Because:** (Name of Partner) is concerned about liability protection for Food Donation in New Jersey. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) indicates that donated food must meet all applicable state and local food quality and labeling standards in addition to federal requirements. Therefore, state laws regarding food labeling and safety must be followed for a food donor to receive protection under the federal Emerson Act.

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-good-samaritan-faqs.pdf>

**Therefore:**

Effective \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ it is the policy of (Name of partner) that the donated food must be “apparently wholesome” or an “apparently fit grocery product” and meet “all quality and labeling standards imposed by Federal, State, and local laws and regulations,” even if it is not readily marketable due to appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, surplus, or other conditions. When retail stores, grocery stores, farmers markets, and organizations drop off donations, it is optional to fill out your donation form completely and legibly so we can mail your acknowledgement. This also serves as a tax receipt.

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Title

Name of Partner

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Signature

Date