Food Banking 101

MIKE COHEN, BELLINGHAM FOOD BANK
JENN TENNENT, NORTHWEST HARVEST

Values and Organizational Culture

- ▶ Why are you there?
- ▶ What are your program's values?
- What do you care most about?
- ▶ What need(s) are you addressing?
 - These will help you craft your mission and programmatic goals.

Physical Space

- Fundamentals
 - Compliance with Department of Health regulations, accessibility for customers, transportation to and from your location, signage outside.
- Bigger Picture
 - How does your space look?
 - How does It make clients and volunteers feel?
 - ▶ How will your space impact the way you serve your customers?
 - Will you need to be open more often or unique hours, how much food can you provide per visit, etc. What do you need to make the space align with your values?









Distribution

- Operating Hours and Frequency
 - Really think about how this impacts the people you want to serve and design these around the needs of your community and not the ease of volunteers.
 - Display your signage and hours all the time, not just on open days.





Distribution

- Client eligibility and service area
- Intake Procedures
 - ▶ How will this make clients feel?

▶ How much food and what types of food are you going to distribute

per person

What are the needs in your area?



Food Distribution Model

- What type of system do you want to use?
 - ► The answer should be clear!
 - Pre-box, Client Choice, Shopping Model



Pre-box Model

Food Distribution Model



Client Choice Model



Food Distribution Model





Volunteers and Staff

- It is a privilege and not a right to work at the food bank.
 - ▶ Treat everyone equally.





Policies and Forms

- You need to have some!
 - Volunteer bag policy
 - Intake form
 - Open hours posted
 - Grievance procedure
 - ► Hand washing signs
 - Emergency signs and phone numbers/address posted
 - ► Fire and exit signs

Food Sourcing and Fundraising

- Food Sourcing
- Community Outreach
- Fundraising
- Donors
 - Find ones that align with your values
 - Good Samaritan Law
- Other resources
 - Grants, Events, Schools, Food Drives



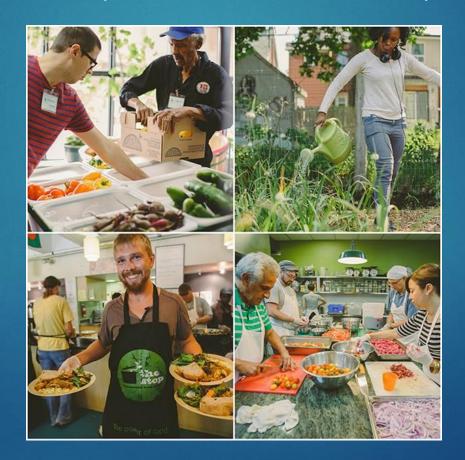






Moving Beyond Food

What kind of program do you want to be? What is your vision?



Resources

- There are so many!
 - Providers (Northwest Harvest, Second Harvest, Food Lifeline)
 - Washington Food Coalition (Food Banking 101 Manual)
 - Regional Food Bank Coalitions
 - WSU extension
 - ▶ The Stop and Community Food Centres Canda
 - From Hunger to Health Blog