

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) FAQ for Partner Organizations



What is CSFP?

The Commodity Supplemental Nutrition program (CSFP) is a federal nutrition program that offers free monthly boxes of USDA foods including canned fruits and vegetables, juice, cereal, pasta, cheese, shelf-stable milk and canned meats. Each box weighs approximately 25-30 lbs. CSFP is available in every state in the country, and each state's maximum enrollment is determined by the USDA. Vermont is currently able to enroll around 1500 people.

Who is Eligible for CSFP?

People must be at least 60 years of age and meet household income requirements, which are 150% Federal Poverty Level or lower. The income limits are updated yearly. You can find an eligibility chart with more specifics on the CSFP page of Vermont Foodbank's website - vtfoodbank.org/csfp. People can absolutely enroll in CSFP and other programs such as 3SquaresVT at the same time. Any person living in Vermont can apply.

How does someone apply?

People can apply online or download a paper application on the CSFP page of Vermont Foodbank's website. Please scan paper applications and email to csfp@vtfoodbank.org or mail to CSFP, Vermont Foodbank, 33 Parker Road, Barre, VT, 05641. The application is short and takes 5 minutes or less to complete. After the Vermont

Foodbank team receives an application, the applicant will be notified by letter about status—either declined if not eligible, approved with details about first pickup location, or added to waitlist. As of January 2026, there is currently a waitlist to enroll and VF is contacting people as space opens.

How does box pickup work?

There are a few ways CSFP boxes are delivered: directly to low-income housing sites, to locations where participants meet a VF truck on a specific day/time, or, in some areas, to VF Network Partners sites for pickup that month. Pickup method may depend on where you live. We recognize transportation can be a barrier to this program. CSFP participants can assign someone they know to be a “proxy” to pick up the box on their behalf. Missing 2 pickups in a row will remove a participant from the program. This is a federal policy and also helps Vermont Foodbank team enroll people on the waitlist as quickly as possible.

My organization is interested in becoming a CSFP pickup site. What is required?

Vermont Foodbank is not currently adding new sites due to the CSFP enrollment waitlist, but this may change in the future. You can always reach out to our team if you have interest or questions.

For Network Partners to become a site, you would need:

- Adequate space to store the shelf-stable boxes and refrigerated cheese,
- A staff person or volunteer responsible for receiving the boxes monthly, collecting signatures as boxes are picked up, and returning those sheets to VF (handing back to drivers is preferred; they can also be emailed).

Please note: CSFP food cannot be distributed to the general public or incorporated into food shelf inventory. There are no exceptions, even if people do not pick up their boxes. In the case of someone not picking up their box, the box must be held until the following month and handed out first.

I want to help people learn about CSFP. What can I do?

Print and share the flyer located on VF’s CSFP webpage, share a link in your next newsletter, or make sure your volunteers/staff know where to find the online application.

I have other questions not answered here. Who should I contact?

Anyone with CSFP questions can contact our Vermont Foodbank team:

csfp@vtfoodbank.org or 1-800-214-4648.

