



Nutrition Pantry Program

The Nutrition Pantry Program (NPP) is a client-centered, healthy pantry program that addresses the policy, systems, and environment of food distribution with a trauma-informed approach. The program operates through 6 key focus areas:

- * Nutrition Education
- * Environment
- * Inventory - Food Sourcing & Waste Reduction
- * Cultural & Dietary Accommodations
- * Community Connections
- * Pantry Policies and Procedures

Vision

The vision of the Nutrition Pantry Program is that wherever free food is provided to communities experiencing nutrition insecurity:

- the distribution is dignified and reflective of client/neighbor needs - how do clients feel when they walk through the door? Is it a warm and welcoming experience?
- the food is nourishing and appropriate - That means taking into consideration your client's/neighbor's unique cultural and dietary needs.
- clients feel confident preparing and consuming these healthier foods - After all, it isn't nutrition if it isn't eaten
- and pantry leadership considers the role of their distribution in the community.

How Does it Work?

Planning: The NPP process begins with a planning call, where the pantry provides an overview of their operations. A timeline for program completion will be set, and the pantry will roll into the NPP Cohort, meeting quarterly.

Needs and Current Work Assessment: This phase involves conducting a Client Needs Assessment and Healthy Food Pantry Assessment to identify the pantry and client's needs.

Work Plan Creation: The pantry and implementer collaborate to develop a work plan tailored to address identified needs and goals. The plan is guided by focus area best practices and trauma-informed principles provided by Leah's Pantry.

Implementation: Pantries put the established plan into action, with implementers offering regular support and check-ins.

Certification/Ongoing Maintenance: Pantries can opt for certification by completing goals in each focus area. Maintenance involves yearly check-in calls to ensure continued success.

Eligibility

Must be a **member of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance** as a Local Hunger Relief Organization. As a member, **you get access to Alliance benefits such as Capacity Building Grants and working with our Programs**. Sign up for just \$25 a year with the QR code or head to arhungeralliance.org.



Resources

- Partners who commit to working with us can apply to receive a stipend to be used for their NPP goals, such as building an accessibility ramp.
- Partners can also be provided recipe cards, posters, digital media toolkits, and more!

**Note: Resources allotted at funding allows.*

Time Commitment

The NPP process can range from 6 months to 2 years depending on the partner and their needs.

NPP Cohort

The NPP Cohort meets quarterly for **resource webinars** led by the Alliance. These cover topics like client-centered approaches, trauma informed principles, and special topics chosen by the cohort. Each webinar dedicates the first half to learning and the second half for pantries to discuss questions, challenges, and successes, **fostering collaboration and learning from each other**.

