How It Works

1. Food Is Collected

Food Donations 🍎
Individuals, local businesses, and community organizations hold food drives and donate non-perishable food goods to us.

GleanSLO 🍎
Our GleanSLO program harvests fresh produce from backyards, farmers markets, and farms.

Grocery Store Rescues 🛒
Grocery stores let us know when they have extra and we pick it up.

Local, State & Federal Government Programs 🏛
We administer various governmental food assistance programs.

Purchase Power 💰
We use donor funds to buy fresh produce and other nutritious food staples in bulk.

2. SLO Food Bank Warehouse

Staff and volunteers pack food orders at our warehouse in San Luis Obispo.

3. Food Is Distributed To Those In Need

Partner Nonprofits
More than 78 Partner Nonprofit Agencies source food from our warehouse to distribute throughout SLO County.

Food Bank Neighborhood Distributions
Food Bank Coalition staff and volunteers also facilitate recurring food distributions in every community in SLO County.
Our Mission: To work with a network of community partners to alleviate hunger in San Luis Obispo County and build a healthier community.

We are dedicated to increasing the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables as well as providing education on how to prepare healthy meals, even when resources are scarce. We work to improve the health of our community and ensure that everyone has access to fresh and nutritious food. Food insecurity puts those we serve at higher risk of diet-related diseases. Poor nutrition can negatively impact classroom performance for children.

Nutrition Education

In 2018, the Nutrition Program partnered with Dietetic Internship Programs at Cal Poly and Atascadero State Hospital. This partnership is mutually beneficial so that we are able to provide training and hands-on experience in Community Nutrition Education to seven full-time interns, thus increasing this program’s reach and impact without adding costs.

- 143 lessons & outreaches provided
- 650 individuals served per month
- 456 volunteer hours contributed
- 57 unique recipes created & shared

Over 3,148,081 lbs of food distributed:
- fresh produce 47%
- shelf-stable food goods 29%
- meat/dairy products 13%
- bread 7%
- prepared foods / entrees 4%

Farmers Markets

Children participating in our Children’s Farmers Markets learn about the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables as they shop for produce with "Food Bank Bucks." After the markets, they also try out new recipes and participate in nutrition lessons.

- 181 Farmers Markets held
- 1,119 children served per month
- 192,816 pounds of fresh produce distributed

At Senior Farmers Markets, participants learn easy ways to prepare and store the food they take home each month. Recipients at Food Bank Coalition distributions receive materials and recipes in both English and Spanish and get sample recipes made from the items they are receiving that day.
We host recurring food distributions in every community throughout San Luis Obispo County.

CalFresh

California’s food stamp program helps households and families buy the nutritious food they need. CalFresh dollars stretch a tight food budget so that people can afford nutritious food. Through a grant from the Department of Social Services (DSS), we have a full time staff member dedicated to helping eligible SLO County residents apply for CalFresh.

- 102 applications submitted
- 56 public outreaches

GleanSLO

We live in an area of agricultural abundance, yet there are many people in SLO County that face hunger. We believe in simple solutions such as harvesting extra produce and getting it to our neighbors in need.

Through the act of harvesting and sharing food, we connect and nourish our community to build stronger relationships and a deeper appreciation for food.

- 227 farmers market collections
- 269 farm gleans
- 137 backyard harvests
- 44 farm pick-ups
- 231,200 lbs produce rescued
- 540 volunteers
- 339 first time harvesters
- 3,571 volunteer hours
- 110 first time donors

Local Capacity Building

We work closely with distribution sites and partner nonprofits to continually improve ways to expand access to food. We have provided grants to purchase cold storage equipment, empowered new organizations to expand their capacity by adding USDA food to distributions, and developed leadership through training and hands-on experience for volunteers.

- 60 unique distribution sites
- 917 total distributions held
- 3,191 households served per month
- 7,366 people served per month

Public Distributions

The Neighborhood Food Distribution Program provides a direct approach to delivering food to San Luis Obispo County residents. Our food distribution sites are strategically located around SLO County to enable food access to our residents in need. Most of these sites are operated by our staff with the help of community volunteers. This means that Food Bank Coalition employees are in direct contact with the neighbors we serve and see the real needs of our community.

- 102 applications submitted
- 56 public outreaches
We are the only countywide source of nutritious food for people in need, providing services from San Miguel to Nipomo, and every community in between.

Working hand in hand with volunteers, donors, corporate sponsors, and non-profit agency partners, it is our goal to see that no one in San Luis Obispo County goes hungry.

Partners

As a member of *Feeding America*, we work with nonprofit agencies throughout the county that distribute food to people in need as a part of their scope of services. These agencies include, but are not limited to, after school programs, church pantries, and recovery homes. The Food Bank Coalition and our partner nonprofits follow the guidelines established by *Feeding America* and are subject to regular compliance monitoring.

Volunteers

Our 3,731 volunteers play a key role, helping us gather, pack and distribute nutritious food every day to our neighbors in need.
The $1,532,664.04 we received in 2018 through 6,985 monetary donations shows that our community cares deeply about our neighbors.

**Donations**

Donors transform our county, play the central role as food source to over 78 partner agencies, and serve as catalyst for creative programs which all help build a healthier community.

Nearly two-thirds of our donations come from the thousands of people who live amongst us that look beyond their own self-interests and support every person's right to nutritious food.

A donation has an effect beyond what any single person might make of it. There is an intimate and expansive relationship between a dollar donated and our ability to see to it that families can produce healthy meals in their homes.

Businesses and corporations support our work both through volunteering and by making donations in support of events and critical programming. Their contributions provide a distinctive highlight to our coalition.

**Thank you to our Major Sponsors of 2018**

- The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County
- Feeding America
- Albertson Foundation Inc.
- Dimes Media Central Coast
- The Cliffs Resort, LLC
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Peter and Mary Russo Family Foundation, Inc.
- T. Rowe Price Program For Charitable Giving
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- Central Coast Follies
- Central Valley Community Foundation
- Mission San Luis Obispo De Tolosa
- Tenet Healthcare Corp.
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As of May 30, 2019

Average Donation

Individuals: $161.20
Corporations / Businesses: $1,758.84
Other Non-Profits: $816.68
Our Vision

The vision of the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County is that every person in the county has adequate access to nutritious food.

Every human being has the right to nutritious food, regardless of the reasons that they may not be able to obtain it for themselves. The Food Bank Coalition’s intent is not only to help make nutritious food available through our programs and agencies, but also to encourage and support each person we serve, recognizing their possible vulnerabilities and sensitivities. Everyone the Food Bank Coalition serves, whether individuals, families or agencies, deserves to be treated with kindness, respect and dignity. It is our privilege to serve without judgement.

Contact Us

1180 Kendall Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

(805) 238 4664
slofoodbank.org

*See our website for information on volunteering, donating and connecting to resources.