

Project Overview:  
**Gleaners Community Food Bank**  
**Healthy Pantry Initiative**

***What does this project seek to accomplish?***

By working closely with our agency partners, we hope to facilitate pantry environments that encourage clients to select, prepare and consume healthy foods.

***How will this project accomplish its goals?***

This project seeks to influence clients' food choices and ultimately improve their health through a multi-level environmental approach. The specific approach taken at each pantry will be decided by the pantry's staff to correspond with specific needs, readiness, and desired level of involvement.

***What will this project involve?***

1) Environmental Interventions

There are many simple, affordable intervention strategies that can make a big impact on clients' food choices. We encourage participating pantries to select *two* strategies that they would like to adopt. GCFB will provide consultation, organizational support and material resources to actualize implementation goals.

2) Healthy-Eating Activities

To compliment environmental changes, GCFB staff will offer nutrition education activities, cooking demonstrations, and/or recipe tastings to participating pantries. Participating pantries are encouraged to schedule *one* such activity *every other month*.

3) Staff and Volunteer Training

GCFB is offering Health Food Ambassador Workshops to assist pantry representatives in identifying and ordering healthier food items for the pantry, promoting healthy food to clients, and leading their own healthy-eating activities. All interested staff and volunteers are encouraged to participate.

4) Garden Partnerships

Pantries that are interested in accepting fresh produce donations from local gardeners and/or starting their own gardens will be linked with the resources to do so.

***What is my role in this project?***

As the point-person for this initiative you are asked to consult with your team to decide which interventions and activities are right for your pantry. We will work with you to develop an appropriate plan for implementation and schedule activities and/or workshops. We ask that you maintain ongoing communication with the pantry educator and participate in bimonthly check-in's to facilitate her support. If desired, you may nominate yourself, your staff and/or dedicated volunteer(s) as a Healthy Food Ambassadors in training.

***How long will this project last?***

This project seeks to implement changes that can be sustained over time. The formal implementation period for your pantry (Healthy-eating activities, Workshops, regular check-ins) will last approximately 6-8 months. An exit interview will take place at the project's close to discuss you pantry's successes, challenges and plans going forward. We will continue to provide support as-needed to ensure that your pantry is able to maintain any accomplishments the long-term.