

<http://www.brfoodbank.org/whatisafoodbank.shtml>

What is a Food Bank?

A **food bank** is generally defined as a non-profit organization which solicits, procures, inventories, and warehouses donated food and other products. The most common items procured are non-perishable food items, but some unique food banks have the capacity and ability to warehouse perishable items as well. This food is then distributed to a variety of community agencies such as pantries, meal sites, homes, shelters, and soup kitchens which serve the people in need.

The major focus of food banks is not to provide food directly individuals in need. Instead, food banks provide food to agencies in their service area that, in turn, provide food on an individual short-term need basis.

There are five food banks in Louisiana.

Food banks receive food in many different ways. Some examples are:

- Bulk purchases from your financial support
- Individual food donations
- Public food drives
- Clean out your Freezer Days
- Hunters for the Hungry
- Private grocery store product reclamation
- Corporate reclamation and redistribution centers
- USDA distributed commodities
- FEMA Emergency relief distributions

How does the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank work?

At the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, we are working to eliminate hunger through community driven support.

Step 1: Community food drives and donations make up 90% of the food we distribute.

Step 2: Volunteers help sort the food and assist with our special events and fundraisers.

Step 3: Agencies distribute food to over 100 locations in our service area.

Step 4: Meal sites provide daily nutrition in the fight against hunger.