

Mission:

To distribute food effectively through collaborative efforts that minimize hunger, promote nutrition and encourage self-reliance through education.

Vision:

To inspire hope by leading the effort for a hunger free and properly nourished community.

REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP 2021

Virginia Peninsula Foodbank 2401 Aluminum Avenue Hampton, VA 23661 Main: 757.596.7188 x109 Fax: 757.595.2507 nsingleton@hrfoodbank.org



Dear Applicant,

As members of Feeding America National Network of Foodbanks, the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank is pleased with your interest in becoming one of our partners. We look forward to assisting your non-profit or faith-based organization, by providing you with the food and training opportunities to accomplish your goals.

Our Foodbank operates on a membership basis. Each partner organization joins us towards eliminating hunger in our communities. We expect that each of our partner agencies will share our dedication to a world without hunger and towards building a community that makes food accessible to all people.

In order for us to process your application in a timely fashion, please submit all of the following:

- □ A COMPLETED REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP (RFP)
- □ A COPY OF YOUR AGENCY'S IRS 501(c)3 DETERMINATION LETTER
- OR, if yours is an <u>independent faith-based organization</u>, that **DOES NOT** HAVE A 501(c)3, please see <u>page 17</u> of this application packet for further instruction regarding how your organization can become a member of our Foodbank.
- □ Proof of ServSafe Safe Food Handling for Foodbanking Training (or registration for a future class)

Once you have completed the above and returned your packet, I will make arrangements with you to visit your site to inspect your food storage facilities and to observe your feeding program.

Upon acceptance of your application, your designated shoppers will need to attend orientation for new members to be familiarized with our shopping policies and procedures.

Please allow 1-2 weeks to process your completed membership application. We suggest that you *make* a copy of your completed packet for your records.

If you have any questions, would like a tour of the Foodbank or would like me to come to speak to your staff, please call me at 596-7188 ext. 109.

On behalf of the entire Foodbank staff, we commend you for your efforts to help those in need in our community.

Sincerely,

Nícole B. Síngleton, Agency Services Director

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on taking the first step toward partnership (new or continued) with Virginia Peninsula Foodbank (VPF). Please keep in mind that completing this Request for Partnership (RFP) does not guarantee partnership. We look forward to receiving your completed application.

GUIDELINES

Purpose: Virginia Peninsula Foodbank is committed to building a hunger-free community through innovative programs and collaborative partnerships. We partner with organizations that hold similar values and a similar vision for our entire service area. These values include our commitments to service, quality, people, stewardship, and integrity. With finite resources, this RFP process will allow VPF to take a closer look at our distribution network, strategically allocate our services to the community to make the largest impact, and ensure that we are able to effectively support our partner network with high quality services and food. It is also a unique opportunity for applicants to showcase the innovative steps they are taking to end hunger across the Greater Peninsula.

Timeline and Deadline to Apply:

- Applications will be accepted from January 25th May 14th
- Approvals and Renewals will occur within <u>60 days from receipt of completed applications and</u> <u>required documentation.</u>
- Approvals is dependent upon applicants meeting the criteria and providing all supporting documentation.

Partnership Period:

- If accepted, partnerships are valid for a 2-year period.
- All agencies are evaluated bi-annually.

Membership Fees:

- <u>Annual Memberships Fees range from \$100.00 \$175.00</u>, It is based on the amount of shared maintenance fee the agency paid on pounds of food withdrawn.
- Bread Program participants pay a <u>\$60/month fee</u> for participation in weekly food pick-ups.
- Water, Bread and Fresh Produce are FREE. However, agencies pay a per pound fee for drinks, canned & dry items and frozen meats, that's currently around 19 cents per pound. These prices are subject to change based on market value.

BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered eligible for partnership with VPF, an organization must, at a minimum:

- Be recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit, charitable organization, **OR** be affiliated with a 501 (c)(3) umbrella organization **OR** complete the <u>14 Points worksheet on page 17</u>.
- Must be incorporated for the purpose of serving infants (minor children), ill, or needy
- Be located within the VPF service area which includes the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Williamsburg, and Poquoson and the counties of York, Gloucester, Mathews, James City and Surry with the understanding that all food must be distributed within this service area
- Must not charge for food, be reimbursed, compensated, or require services in exchange for food
- Must not redistribute product to non-partner organizations
- Must not discriminate for any reason
- Must not be an entity of a municipality (e.g., a school, hospital or prison)
- Must have been operating an organized and consistent pantry or soup kitchen for a minimum of three months at the time of application
- Must have adequate storage for food. Food storage and food preparation must be at a commercial location and *not at a home or place of residence*. VPF prefers that food storage and preparation be at the site of distribution

- Primary contact/shopper must hold the ServSafe Safe Food Handling for Food Banking certificate
- Must have a consistent distribution day and time at an identified location so that there is access to as many people as possible. Food distribution must occur at least once a month.
- Must make effort to have the organization listed on 211virginia.org
- Must be led by a non-recipient of the food distribution program
- Must assign 2 people to be trained to use our PantryTrak database for **required electronic monthly reporting**.
- Applying organization understands that VPF will have the food distribution information available to the public through our website and other resource documents

Partnership Benefits: As a community partner of VPF, you will have access to our agency shopping floor for reduced-cost healthy and diverse food items, safe food handling workshops and staff technical assistance and support, Neighbor to Neighbor assignments (if applicable) through our affiliations with grocery stores and retailers, and a diverse network of strong organizations, from which to learn and with whom to collaborate.

How to submit your RFP: There are four parts to your application:

- 1. Fill out the RFP application completely.
- 2. Submit the supporting documents. See the supporting document checklist below.
- 3. Obtain the two indicated signatures on the signature page. The signatures must match the contact information on page 6.
- 4. Submit the application via mail, email, or in person.

*Please note: If you successfully completed an application for partnership with Virginia Peninsula Foodbank between January 1, 2019 and the present, you do NOT need to turn in the following support documents.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

If you have NOT applied for partnership during the current calendar year, your completed application must include:

- \Box Copy of your organization's IRS 501(c)(3)
- □ 14 Points worksheet if organization is qualifying as a church or other religious organization
- □ Copy of your organization's Articles of Incorporation
- Copy of linkage documents (needed if your organization's address on the 501(c)(3) is not the actual distribution address)
- □ Copy of organization's listing on 2-1-1 (a printed copy of online listing is sufficient)
- Copy of ServSafe Safe Food Handling for Food Banking Certificate (for all designated shoppers or Neighbor to Neighbor volunteers)

How to submit your application and supporting documents: VPF requires that you fill out the RFP on the paper application that was emailed/mailed to your organization, but there are multiple ways to submit your RFP and supporting documents. You may **scan** your application and supporting documents and **email** to nsingleton@hrfoodbank.org, or **mail or hand deliver** to our physical address: 2401 Aluminum Avenue, Hampton, VA 23661, Attn: Nicole Singleton. *Please contact the Agency Services Department with any questions.*

Once again, congratulations on taking the first step toward partnership with Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, and thank you for all of the work you are doing in our community to end hunger

Please note: all questions must be answered, and incomplete applications will *not* be reviewed. It is your responsibility to read all instructions carefully and answer the questions truthfully.

ANY ORGANIZATION FOUND TO HAVE PROVIDED FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION WILL BE IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED FROM THIS APPLICATION CYCLE.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PRIMARY INFORMA	TION		
Incorporated 501(c)(3	B) Entity Name:		
EIN Number:			
Name of Food Progra	ım:		
Food Distribution Add	Iress:		
City:	Zip:	-	
Food Storage/Food P	reparation Address (if different from above): _		
City:	Zip:	-	
Phone:	Alternate Phone:		
Fax:	Web Address:		
Billing/Mailing Addres	S (if different from above):		
City:	Zip:		
*For additional food dist 18	tribution sites, complete the Additional Food S	Nites form at the end of the application -	page
If you have criteria for	the clients you serve, what are they?		
How many adults (18	-59) does your organization serve?	Frequency:	
How many seniors (6	0+) does your organization serve?	Frequency:	
How many children (0	0-17) does your organization serve?	Frequency:	
Partner is applying as	a (check all that apply):		
 Pantry (emerced) 	ency food/grocery programs)		

On-Site Meal Program (prepared meals – i.e. sack lunches, soup kitchens, shelters)

- Residential facility/group home (applicants in this category must complete additional information) For additional food distribution sites, complete the Residential Program form – Page 19
- Large-scale distribution host (large distribution at least once a month, no open pantry)

STAFF INFORMATION

Chief Executive/Director/Pastor I	Name:	Title:
E-mail:	Phone:	_ Fax:
Primary Contact Person Name: _	(First point of contact for VPF communications	
E-mail:	Phone:	_Fax:

List a maximum of five people who will be the organization's approved shoppers to order or pick-up product on the organization's behalf:

1) Name: _	E-mail:
2) Name: _	E-mail:
3) Name: _	E-mail:
4) Name: _	E-mail:
5) Name: _	E-mail:

DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

When did your organization begin a food assistance program? (mm/yyyy) ____/____

When did your partnership with VPF start? (mm/yyyy) ____ /____

When is your organization open for food assistance? Please fill in hours beneath applicable days.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun

If hours are not weekly, please specify days and times:

Do you provide home deliveries to homebound clients? If yes, please describe the process:

Do you serve food at offsite locations?

How often can clients visit your food distribution?

How many clients do you serve at a typical distribution/open pantry day?

How do you track the number of clients you serve? _____

How much food does the average client receive at a typical distribution, and what is your method for determining this amount?

Which of the following considerations does your organization use to determine hours of operation/distribution? **Please circle the option(s) that best apply:**

- a. Staff/volunteer availability
- b. Access to transportation/vehicles
- c. Access to distribution/operating space
- d. Coordination with other service providers (other food distributions in the general vicinity)
- e. Client need/request

What efforts has your organization made to be responsive to community needs regarding hours of				
	What efforts has your	organization made to b	e responsive to community	needs regarding hours of

operation/distribution? Please circle the option(s) that best apply:

f. Other, explain:

- a. Open varying hours throughout the week
- b. Recruitment of additional volunteers/staff
- c. Client survey or observation
- d. None
- e. Other. Explain: _____

FeedMore Y/N Other:	Are you currently a partner of:	
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OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Does your food pantry program have at least one <u>freezer</u> ?	Yes / No
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Please indicate the type and number of freezers your food pantry program has: (Indicate number for each type):

Type:

- Walk In Freezer_____
- Single Door Stand Alone
 Freezer_____

- Chest Freezer_____
- Side By Side Freezer _____
 - Freezer/Fridge Combo (Side/Side or Top/Bottom) _____

Double Door Stand Alone Freezer_____

Does your food pantry have at least one <u>refrigerator?</u>

Yes / No

Please indicate the type and number of refrigerators your food pantry program has: Indicate number (for each type on space provided): Type:

- Walk In Fridge_____
- Single Door Stand Alone Fridge_____
- Double Door Stand Alone Fridge_____
- □ Side By Side Fridge_____
- Fridge/Freezer Combo (Side/Side or Top/Bottom) ______

Does the food pantry have transportation equipment? Yes / No

Please indicate the type and number of transportation equipment that your food pantry uses: (Indicate number for each type below):

- Car_____
- Van_____
- Truck_____
- Truck with Trailer_____
- Refrigerated Cargo Truck______
- Non-Refrigerated Cargo Truck_____
- Other _____

Does your organization use coolers with ice packs and thermal blankets to transport food?

Yes / No

Does your food pantry program have storage for non-perishable dry goods? Yes / No

Please indicate the type of non-perishable dry storage that your food pantry has:

- □ Climate Controlled Room _
- Climate Controlled Trailer/Shipping Container
- Non Climate Controlled Room ______
- □ Non Climate Controlled Trailer/Shipping Container
- □ Non Sheltered, Exposed Storage Space

Please indicate the type of office equipment your food pantry program has access to: (Indicate number for each type):

- o Phone
- Laptop Computer _____
 Desktop Computer _____
- Internet _____
- o WiFi

- Printer _____

- Copier _____
 Fax _____
 Tables/Desks _____
 - Chairs _____

Which of the following does your food program use? (Check all that apply)

- Operations plan / Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- □ Board-approved budget
- □ Regular financial reporting system that tracks income and expenses
- □ Financial reserves to operate three to six months without additional support
- □ Inventory management system
- □ Fundraising plan
- □ Job descriptions
- Emergency plan for internal operations during crisis/disaster (e.g., fire drill, power outage, natural disaster, etc.)
- Ongoing pest control management
- Vendor contact list
- □ Other (Please describe)

COMMUNICATION

Which of the following compliance and reporting activities does your organization perform?

- □ Stores food according to food bank safety standards
- □ Handles food according to food bank safety standards
- Posts visual reminders of food safety guidelines (e.g., temperature guidelines)
- Has a process for receiving information about food safety concerns and food recalls?
- Has a process for communicating food safety concerns and food recalls to clients?
- □ Has a process to provide monthly reporting to food bank partner (s)
- Consistently updates food pantry program information with United Way First Call
- □ Has signage displayed at food distribution site
- Other (Please describe) _____

CLIENT EXPERIENCE

Which of the following activities does your food program prioritize?

- Provides other direct services focused on self-sufficiency (e.g., resume preparation, job readiness skills, case management, etc.)
- □ Refers clients to other resources to promote self-sufficiency (e.g., healthcare, housing, employment, government assistance programs, etc.)

- □ Collaborates with other social service community agencies and food programs
- □ Participates regularly in regional food security meetings, coalitions, task forces, etc.

Which of the following ways does your food program communicate with clients?

- On-site signage about program hours
- On-site signage about program details
- □ On-site signage about other services available at the food pantry
- □ An instant communication delivery method (i.e., email, social media, etc.)
- Other (Please describe)

What is the distribution site's <u>primary distribution model</u>? **Please circle the option that best** applies (state n/a if you are a prepared meal site with no pantry model):

- a. Standard Bag: All clients receive the same pre-packaged bag of food. They do not have the option to choose items to take home.
- b. Standard Bag plus Swap Table: Clients receive a standard packed bag but can leave items they don't want or pick-up items that others left behind at a Swap Table.
- c. Standard Bag plus an unlimited section option: Clients receive a standard packed bag but have the option to take a specified amount of additional items from the pantries unlimited section
- d. Client Choice: Food is displayed and allows clients to make selections based on what's available.
- e. Unlimited Client Choice: Set up like a grocery store. Clients may browse food and select items they want (with or without limits to number of items clients can take).
- f. Other (Please describe your model):

When it comes to checking in your clients, what is your check in method? Please circle all that apply:

- a. Lotto random pull
- b. Appointment
- c. Walk-up
- d. Stand in line
- e. Application with verification: If yes, what is required?
- f. Assigned numbers

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

We would like for a representative from each Agency to attend our Annual VPF Partner Agency Conference/Meeting each June. Will you have someone attend?

- a. Yes
- b. No. Why not? ______

FREE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Please answer all of the following questions to the best of your ability in order to give VPF the most accurate picture of your organization and the work you are doing. Keep in mind that you will be scored based on your ideas not your grammar or spelling; but please be concise and limit responses to a maximum of 250 words. There is no minimum requirement for your response.

1. What are your organization's mission and vision statements? How do they relate to VPF's vision of creating a hunger free community across the Greater Peninsula?

2. Does your organization currently collect any data about your clients (demographics such as ethnicity, age, makeup of household, etc.)? If so, what type(s) and why?

3. VPF often communicates hard deadlines for certain correspondence, such as turning in monthly reports and RSVPs for mandatory meetings. Most of this communication will be done electronically (e-mail). Please briefly explain the efforts your organization can make to comply with VPF's standards of reporting and communication (i.e., how long will it take your organization to respond to VPF communications; how often does a staff member or volunteer check and respond to messages at your organization?) 4. What has been done to build your organization's capacity in the past six to twelve months?

a. Do you have any plans for strengthening your organization's capacity in the next six to twelve months? If so, please briefly describe. If you are unsure of what "capacity" entails, please see capacity element descriptions on page sixteen for guidance.

b. What are you currently doing/willing to do in order to meet the unique needs of your community (i.e., evening and weekend hours, providing additional language services, customizing resources or food for family size)?

5. Give an example of how your organization has impacted your community. What sets you apart from other food providers?

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

I certify that the above application is complete and that the information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false information on this application may be grounds for our organization's application to be denied or terminated and not eligible for partnership or future partnerships with Virginia Peninsula Foodbank.

Chief Executive/Director/Pastor Name:	
itle:	
Date:	
Primary Contact Person Name:	
itle:	
Date:	
/irginia Peninsula Foodbank:	
itle:	
Date received:	

KEY CAPACITY ELEMENTS

Equipment	Materials the organization needs in order to communicate and function properly.
Fundraising	The action of actively seeking to increase funds for the organization.
Technology	The organization's possession of computers and its ability to use them.
Planning	The methods and procedures that the organization uses to coordinate future goals.
Client Referrals	The organization's involvement and collaboration in other food programs in the community.
Distribution Process	The organization's system in distributing its food to clients.
Client Choice	The client's ability to choose the food they receive at the food distribution location.
Advocacy	The organization's relationship with legislators and its involvement in Hunger Action Day.
Nutrition	The organization's encouragement of healthy and balanced meals for its clients.
Foods to Encourage Outreach	Knowledge and promotion of Foods to Encourage among staff and clients.
Leadership	Leading figures that guide and direct the organization.
Client Intake	The organization's efforts in seeking new clients and the requirements for clients to receive services.
Partner Scope	Programs other than food distribution that the organization provides.

Additional Food Distribution Site Form

Type of Site (Circle all that apply):	Food Storage/Warehouse Shelter/Group Home Soup Kitchen/Hot Meal	Food Preparation Facility Food Distribution Site
Site Address:		
City:		Zip:
Day(s) of distribution from this s	site:	
Time(s) of distribution from this	site:	
Is food stored and prepped at the lf no, please explain:	nis site? Yes / No	
Type of Site (Circle all that apply):	Food Storage/Warehouse Shelter/Group Home Soup Kitchen/Hot Meal	Food Preparation Facility Food Distribution Site
Site Address:		
City:		Zip:
Day(s) of distribution from this s	site:	
Time(s) of distribution from this	site:	
Is food stored and prepped at the lf no, please explain:	nis site? Yes / No	

Residential Program Information Form

Please check any of the following that apply to your organization:
Rehabilitation/ Recovery Home Children's Home Women's Home Transitional Living Shelter Temporary Shelter Other
Other, please explain:
Please describe your client intake process and considerations for acceptance into your program:
Are housing fees supplemented by any of the following (check all that apply)?
Government Programs Insurance SSI
Other, please list:
Is the cost of meals included in housing cost (room & board)? Yes / No
Cost of services to residents/participants \$ per (day, week, month, other)
*Please attach a copy of cost breakdown to client (e.g., \$100/week = \$60/staff, counseling, testing services etc., \$20/food, \$20/rent-living, utilities, etc.) What percentage of this income is budgeted for food?
How many total beds are available for use in your facility?
How many of your beds are available for free/income-based payment?
What percent of the food used on-site comes from Virginia Peninsula Foodbank*?%
*Note: Neighbor to Neighbor is considered to be Virginia Peninsula Foodbank food
Are all meals cooked by staff? Yes / No
If meals are cooked/scheduled by staff, please list all meal times:
Breakfast: Dinner:
Do staff members have access to meals provided to clients? Yes / No



Qualifier Form for Independent Churches and Religious Organizations

(Use this form only if your church DOES NOT have a 501c3)

Please submit a letter on your agency's letterhead stating that you do meet the IRS criteria for a church or religious organization. The letter needs to be signed by an authorized person within the organization.When the letter is submitted please attached the required documentation. 10 of the 14 IRS criteria must be met; the first five are mandatory.

Mandatory Criteria	Possible Sources for Documentation	Documentation Attached
A distinct legal existence	Letter from IRS showing Employer ID Number	
A recognized creed and form of worship	By-Laws, Pamphlet	
A definite and distinct ecclesiastical government	By-Laws, Articles of Constitution	
Established place of worship	Church bulletin, Newsletter	
Regular congregations	Church bulletin, Newsletter	
Selected Criteria (Choose five)	Possible Sources for Documentation	Documentation Attached
Regular religious services	Church bulletin, Newsletter	
Sunday School for the instruction of the young	Church bulletin, Newsletter	
A formal code of doctrine	By-Laws, Articles of Constitution	
A distinct religious history	Minutes from the first church meeting of written historical account	
Ordained ministers elected after prescribed course of study	Copy of Ordination and diploma	
Schools for preparation of ministers	Copy of diploma from a school of divinity	
A literature of its own	Copy of literature (published books, magazines, broadcast material)	
A membership not associated with any other church or denomination	Church member directory, list of members	
A complete organization of ordained ministers ministering to their congregations	Copy of Ordination certificates and list of all ordained ministers on organization's letterhead	

As a duly authorized officer of _

___(agency

name), I certify that this organization meets the requirements indicated for identification as a church.

If your church is unincorporated: I certify that this organization has not applied to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status and has been denied, or has not had its 501(c)(3) status revoked by the IRS.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Agency Services Programs

Please read the description of each program and indicate which one(s) your organization would like to join, *if there's room available*? Mark an "X" next to <u>each</u> program that would meet your organization's needs.

_____ Agency Shopping: Foodbank Partner Agencies are able to access our 6,000 square foot shopping area to choose those foods best suited to the need of the organization and the people it serves. SLOTS AVAILABLE

_____Bread Plus Program: Partner Agencies that are enrolled (for a \$60/month fee) receive meats, fresh produce, bread and bakery items, dairy products, snacks, plus other nutritious foods. Within hours food moves from the food bank to the hands of food insecure individuals. **SLOTS AVAILABLE**

_____ USDA Food Commodity Program: Through TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program), partner and non-partner agencies can apply to distribute food to income eligible individuals. **SLOTS AVAILABLE**

The following programs are currently AT CAPACITY. As space becomes available, agencies will be notified by Nicole Singleton, Agency Services Director.

- MFP (Mobile Food Pantries)
- NTN (Neighbor to Neighbor)
- CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) aka the "Senior Program"