Turkey and Thirty
Information for Foodshare’s Meal Programs

Foodshare’s Annual Turkey Drive brings in thousands of turkeys each year to assist our Partner Programs with their Thanksgiving Meal distributions.

Eligible Programs
All Foodshare Pantry and Meal Partner Programs in good standing are eligible to request turkeys from Foodshare.

Turkeys, Chickens and Thanksgiving Foods for your Clients
For ten days in November, Foodshare calls upon the Greater Hartford community to donate tens of thousands of turkeys. Turkeys are donated right up until the day before Thanksgiving and we never know how many will be donated. This is further complicated by the fact that turkeys are generally not available (in abundance) in the grocery store until approximately the second week of November.

So while we would love to fulfill every request, there is no guarantee that we will be able to provide a turkey for each one that is requested. We strongly encourage all programs to secure local donations in addition to the request made to Foodshare.

Foodshare also reserves the right to substitute a whole chicken (or chicken breasts) when turkeys are not available.

Each year Foodshare generally has produce and other Thanksgiving foods to compliment your turkey distribution. The variety and quantity will vary from year to year, and will likely even vary to some degree during November’s turkey distribution. Due to the high volume of food our warehouse team is moving during these days, we are not able to honor special requests.
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Timeline

September: Foodshare’s Online Turkey System opens

The Primary Contact at eligible Programs will receive an email in September advising that Foodshare’s Online Turkey Request System is now OPEN. This is the time for you to log in to:

- Familiarize yourself and any new staff or volunteers with the Turkey Request System and the directions found in this packet
- Select the day and time you would like to pick up your turkeys at Foodshare (and mark it on your calendar!)
- Provide an estimate for the number of turkeys you think you will be needing
- Provide an estimate of your Program’s cold storage capacity (if requested)

If you would like Foodshare to use our forklift to load food in your trucks, please return a signed Forklift Loading Waiver before your scheduled appointment. The Waiver will be attached to your September email.

The Turkey Request System will be OPEN until midnight on October 31st. Please mark this date on your calendar. Once the Turkey Request System is closed, we cannot open it again.

This is also the month to work on your Program’s plans to secure local donations of turkeys.

October: Turkey Requests and Planning

This is the month to finalize plans for securing local turkey donations to your program.

The Turkey Request System will close at midnight on October 31st and cannot be re-opened.

November: Turkey Request System Closed and Turkeys Distributed

Now is the time to:

Watch for Foodshare’s Turkey Goal to be announced approximately ten days before Thanksgiving.

We look forward to seeing you on your scheduled pick up day and wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!
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Using the Turkey Request System

Link to the Turkey Request System
Click HERE to access the Turkey Request System.

Logging in to the Turkey Request System
You will need:
- Your Agency Ref Number
- Password: [your agency ref number]turkey  (Example: If your Agency Ref Number is 85211, your password would be: 85211turkey.)
- Your name and the phone number we can reach you at

Estimated Meals

Enter the number of clients you anticipate serving at a Thanksgiving meal.

If you do NOT distribute frozen turkeys to clients, leave this number set at zero.

If your meal program also requests frozen turkeys for your clients to take home, please read the Turkey and Thirty for PANTRY Programs Information before proceeding.

Cold Storage Capacity

You may be asked to provide information about your refrigerator and freezer space. Before logging in, please determine the number of refrigerators/freezers you’ll be using and how many turkeys they can hold.

If your turkey request number exceeds your cold storage capacity, you will be locked out of the system, and it will need to be reset by Foodshare staff. Please be as accurate as possible when counting your cold storage space and estimating your turkey request number.
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Using the Turkey Request System

Setting An Appointment Time

Set an Appointment time:
Please choose a day and time when you wish to pick up your turkeys from Foodshare:
Please Select…

Review Page for MEAL Programs

You may not revise your request once it has been completed.

Estimated Turkeys for Distribution: 0
Turkeys for Meals: 63
Total Number of Turkeys: 63

You are scheduled to pick up your turkeys from Foodshare on:
Wednesday, November 14 at 9:00 AM

Please also note:
- Foodshare will make every effort to fulfill your Turkey Request, but we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so. We strongly encourage Programs to make plans to source local turkeys.
- Foodshare reserves the right to substitute chicken when turkeys are not available.
- Please arrive on time for your appointment. The scheduling needs to be very tight to accommodate as many as eight Agencies per hour. When a Program arrives late, it impacts others.
- Please enter the Foodshare parking area through the northern driveway (closest to Blue Hills Ave.)
- Vehicle loading is done on the north side of the building (Agency Pick up Area.)
- Please make sure we have a signed Forklift Waiver Form on file before your pick up Appointment.
- If you are distributing turkeys to clients, please note that your final count will depend on the information you enter on this website. You have until October 31st to enter information from the clients’ Turkey Request Form. In early November you will be emailed a list of “approved” and “duplicated” requests. Please review it as soon as possible and report any potential issues or concerns to the Partner Programs team.

Please Print This Page for Your Records

Finalize your Request and Appointment Date by Exiting Completely