Fundraising & Food Drives for Campus Pantries

Running a campus food pantry takes more than just donated goods—it takes money, too. Here's how to find the support you need:

Funding Sources to Explore

- **Student Government** – Apply for student organization or campus project grants
- **Campus Administrative Offices** – Explore support from Student Affairs, Diversity & Inclusion, or Sustainability
- **Alumni Associations & University Foundations** – Tap into alumni pride and donor networks
- **Student & Greek Organizations** – Partner for fundraising events or drives
- **Your Fiscal Sponsor** – If you have one, leverage their donor base
- **Local Businesses & Community Groups** – Ask for sponsorships, matching donations, or hosted food drives

Host Fundraising Events

Events raise both money and awareness:

- Dinners
- Movie Nights
- Concerts

Sell tickets and donate proceeds to the pantry. These events can:

- Raise awareness of campus hunger
- Recruit volunteers
- Educate students about your work

Tip: Ask popular local restaurants to donate food or sponsor the event.

Online Fundraising

Create a donation page on your school website or a separate platform where people can give money instead of food. Highlight specific needs and how donations make an impact.

Food Drive Ideas

Food Drive Competitions

Turn food collection into a friendly contest between:

- Dorms
- Greek Life
- Departments
- Student Clubs
- Local Businesses or Churches

Offer small prizes—gift cards, free meals, etc.—for winners.

Additional competition ideas include:

- Compete with a rival school ("Food Fight" before a big game!)
- Partner with the athletic department to collect food at games (offer discounted admission for food donors)
- Canstruction Contest: Teams compete to build sculptures out of donated cans, adding an artistic element to the drive.
- Department Challenge: Pit different departments against each other to see who can collect the most food or raise the most funds.

Themed Food Drives

Make drives fun and seasonal:

- Soup-er Bowl: Collect canned soups and stews
- Breakfast of Champions: Cereal, oatmeal, granola bars
- Winter Warm-Up: Hot cocoa mix, stews, chili
- Back-to-School: Lunchbox items like PB&J, snacks
- 12 Days of Giving: A different food category each day (proteins, grains, snacks)
- Can the Professor/Boss/Principal: Fill their office with donated food

Online Food Drives

If your supporters are far away—like alumni or parents—use a platform like YouGiveGoods.com where they can buy items online and have them shipped directly to your pantry.

More Ideas

- **Event Admission for Donations**: Lower ticket prices in exchange for food donations
- **Food Drive Ribbons**: Give ribbons or stickers to show donor participation
  Local Business Partners: Ask businesses to host collection boxes or match donations
- **Showcase Your Impact**: Publicly share how much food/money was raised and who it helped
- **Collaborate with your community food shelf:** work together to promote food security across the community
- **Move out Drive**: Ask students to donate leftover food when moving out of residence halls

Appendix:

- Food Drive Flyer
- Donate to the Food Pantry Webpage