Your Partner in Transforming Food Shelf Operations for Lasting Impact

ffen
Foundation For Essential Needs

Expanding food access for your neighbors is one of the most impactful ways to strengthen your community. And leading a food shelf can sometimes be as challenging and isolating as it is rewarding. **That's where Foundation for Essential Needs (FFEN) comes in.** We equip food shelves with data, training, and expert consultation—empowering you to serve your community more effectively while freeing up time to focus on what matters most. **Best of all, our services are completely free for food shelves across Minnesota and Western Wisconsin.**

Strategic Food Sourcing Report and Consultation

Get the data you need to strengthen your food shelf. FFEN's individualized six month "health check" provides key insights to help you make informed decisions and adapt to evolving community needs. See a breakdown of food categories by cost and weight to evaluate the sustainability of your purchasing strategy and its impact. With experience supporting hundreds of food shelves each year, FFEN translates data into actionable best practices to help you serve your community more effectively. **To sign up, email programs@ffen.org.**

FFEN Essentials: Onboarding and Peer-Learning Sessions

Orient new staff, volunteers, and board members to the hunger relief sector with a shared understanding of its complex system. FFEN's onboarding and peer-learning sessions provide deeper insights into daily food shelf operations, offering practical tools to enhance food sourcing, distribution, and shopper-focused programs. Live options offered monthly alongside recorded trainings available anytime. **Learn more at ffen.org/education.**

Resource Hub: On-Demand Resources and Tailored Support

Visit FFEN's Resource Hub to access tools and resources designed to enhance food shelf operations. Regularly updated, our resources highlight best practices from peer food shelves. For more tailored support, schedule a live Resource Hub call with FFEN staff to discuss real-time solutions, share resources, and explore next steps. **Visit ffen.org/resource-hub to learn more.**

Process Improvement Consultation

FFEN partners with a select group of food shelves to provide tailored support aimed at improving operations. These partnerships focus on enhancing food and shopper flow, managing fresh food streams, and increasing shopper involvement in decision-making. Over a four-month period, FFEN offers additional support through staff expertise and skilled, pro bono volunteers. Together, we work to improve access to fresh food and create a dignified food shelf experience for shoppers. **Email programs@ffen.org for an initial scoping call to assess fit.**