

## NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE FEEDING OPERATIONS

### Background:

The following general guidelines are derived from Limited-Service Charitable Feeding Operations (LSCFO) permit or registration law. Many charitable food distribution efforts are unique, please contact the Environmental Management Department (EMD) at (916) 875-8440 for assistance with understanding which requirements may apply to a specific charitable feeding activity.

*Please see the information below for requirements pertaining to the distribution of prepared food and/or the distribution of food at a charitable feeding event.*

<b>No LSCFO Permit or Registration Required</b>	<p><b>Up to 3 days in a 90-day period</b> - A church, private club, or other non-profit association may provide prepared cooked foods for up to <u>3 days in a 90 day period</u> without a LSCFO permit or registration to its members and guests.</p> <p>Example: A church hosting a community dinner once a month.</p>
	<p>A non-profit charitable organization that operates a food pantry <b><i>under an agreement with a permitted food bank (e.g. partner agency)</i></b> that provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shelf-stable packaged, non-perishable food</li> <li>• whole, uncut produce</li> <li>• commercially prepared refrigerated or frozen foods</li> <li>• eggs, dairy, and meat</li> </ul>
	<p>A single person can give away the following food items to another single person without a permit or registration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pre-packaged, shelf-stable food (e.g. granola bars, bottled water)</li> <li>• packaged food purchased from a permitted food facility (e.g. pizza, sandwiches)</li> </ul>
<b>Non-profit Community Event Permit – No Fee</b>	<p><b>An “event” held up to 4 times per year</b> - A non-profit association, church or school club hosts a multi-day event at their location where food is provided to members and guests. The event occurs no more than four times per year.</p> <p>Example: Winter Sanctuary</p>
<b>LSCFO Permit Required – Annual Fee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unlimited number of days</b> - A non-profit charitable organization can apply for a permit which would allow an <u>unlimited number</u> of charitable feeding days.</li> <li>• The non-profit charitable organization <b><i>does not operate under an agreement with a permitted food bank.</i></b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All food preparation/distribution must follow “Best Management Practices.”</li> <li>• Permitted LSCFOs may prepare and serve potentially hazardous foods (PHFs) for charitable feeding which may require thawing, cooking, cooling, reheating, and/or hot holding. For example: assembling sandwiches and salads and pancake breakfast</li> <li>• This facility may engage in food portioning from bulk commercially prepared meals. For example: portioning commercially cooked turkey</li> <li>• Permitted LSCFOs store and/or give away prepackaged food, raw whole produce, or shelled eggs directly to people in need.</li> <li>• A LSCFO may distribute food in an outdoor location approved by EMD, that is not in or adjacent to the registered location.</li> <li>• Off-site food distribution is limited to no more than <u>4 hours per day</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>LSCFO Registration required – Annual Fee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unlimited number of days</b> - A non-profit charitable organization can apply for a registration which would allow an <u>unlimited number</u> of charitable food distribution days.</li> <li>• The non-profit charitable organization <b><i>does not operate under an agreement with a permitted food bank.</i></b></li> <li>• All food preparation/distribution must follow “Best Management Practices.”</li> <li>• Registered LSCFOs store and/or give away prepackaged food, raw whole produce, or shelled eggs directly to people in need. This facility <i>does not</i> engage in any type of food preparation, except the portioning of non-PHF foods.</li> <li>• Allows storage, reheating and service of individually packaged foods. For example: reheating commercially prepared single-serve frozen meals.</li> <li>• A LSCFO may distribute food in an outdoor location approved by EMD, that is not in or adjacent to the registered location.</li> <li>• Off-site food distribution is limited to no more than <u>4 hours per day</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>Not allowed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing food in a private home and setting up a charitable food distribution or street feeding.</li> <li>• Blending, chopping, dicing</li> <li>• Cooking raw animal products</li> </ul>
<b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> “Non-Profit Charitable Organization” means the group is registered as a 501c3.	

### **Information on Obtaining an LSCFO Permit or Registration**

Permit or Registration forms/application can be found on EMD’s website at [emd.saccounty.gov](http://emd.saccounty.gov). Applications may be completed and paid for in person or mailed to:

**Sacramento County EMD**

**11080 White Rock Rd, Ste 200**

**Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm

### **Free Food Safety Training**

Food Safety training is strongly recommended, but not required for a LSCFO. Further information about food safety training can be found on the EMD website at [emd.saccounty.gov](http://emd.saccounty.gov).

EMD offers free food safety training classes at EMD's office.

### **NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE FEEDING OPERATION FAQ'S**

**1. Does the law require that a health permit be obtained prior to a non-profit charitable organization providing free food to the public?**

If a registration or permit is needed, it should be obtained prior to providing food. Contact EMD at (916) 875-8440 for permitting requirements for a specific charitable feeding activity.

**2. What is required if a non-profit organization conducts food service activities such as cooking raw meats or raw chicken or cooling cooked chicken to make a chicken salad?**

These activities cannot be done with an LSCFO permit or registration. If the organization wishes to engage in cooking and preparation activities beyond the limits of the LSCFO permit, they will need to apply for a different food facility permit. In addition, a Plan Review application may need to be submitted.

**3. Where can food be served or distributed?**

Food can be distributed to the public from inside the LSCFO's building. The building may be a non-residential structure that meets minimum structural and operational requirements.

Food may be distributed in an outdoor location that is not in/or adjacent to the registered location up to four hours per day. Other local governmental jurisdictions (planning department and/or community development agency, building department, fire department, police department, parks department, etc.) may have additional requirements for use of public areas.

**4. Is food safety training required?**

The LSCFO must meet certain CalCode requirements, as specified, and follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) in order to ensure food is handled safely. Food safety training through a Food Safety Manager Certificate or Food Handler Card program is not specifically required for LSCFOs; however, BMPs require a sufficient level of food safety training and/or knowledge.

**5. Will an inspection of the LSCFO be conducted?**

Yes, one routine inspection of the operation will be conducted annually. An initial site visit may be conducted to determine eligibility and placement in the registration program. For permit and registration applicants, a site evaluation may be conducted to determine if upgrades are necessary for the kitchen.

**6. I am not a non-profit organization, but I want to prepare food such as beef stew or burritos at home. Can I distribute this food to those in need at a park or public area?**

No, AB 2178 does not allow prepared foods made at home to be distributed to the public. In addition, AB 2178 requires the charitable feeding operation to be a non-profit.

**7. What are the fines and/or penalties if a non-profit charitable feeding operation is operating without a registration or permit?**

Initially, Environmental Management Department would start with education including information on how to obtain a registration or permit.

Enforcement options:

- Issue cease and desist notice to charitable feeders continuing to operate without registration.
- Conduct reinspections and office meetings as needed (fees may apply).