



No-Cost Food Access

1.0 PURPOSE

Smiths Falls Community Food Bank (SFCFB) assists in addressing food insecurity by providing free, unconditional and dignified food assistance, insuring inclusivity, respect, and confidentiality for those in need.

2.0 POLICY

SFCFB is committed to ensuring that core food-support service to clients is provided at no cost, and without being implicitly/explicitly tied to other conditions (such as: volunteer participation donation requirements, engagement in faith-based activities etc.)

This policy applies to all food-related programs and services offered by SFCFB, including but not limited to food distribution and any other initiatives involving the provision of food.

3.0 PRINCIPLES

SFCFB is guided by the following principles:

- 3.1 SFCFB maintains its commitment to providing food assistance to clients facing food insecurity without imposing any implicit or explicit conditions. This policy aims to create an environment of inclusivity, dignity, and respect for all individuals seeking support from SFCFB.
- 3.2 SFCFB provides food assistance to residents facing food insecurity without any form of charge or obligation. The provision of food is unconditional and is not contingent upon any criteria such as income, background, or participation in other programs or services.
- 3.3 SFCFB is committed to a non-discriminatory approach in providing food assistance. No individual shall be denied access to food on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.
- 3.4 SFCFB recognizes the importance of preserving the dignity of individuals seeking food assistance. The organization shall strive to create an atmosphere of respect and empathy, avoiding stigmatization or judgment in any form.

4.0 PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Personal information of individuals seeking food assistance shall be treated with the utmost confidentiality. SFCFB staff and volunteers must respect the privacy of those accessing food services, and any information shared shall be handled in accordance with the organization's privacy policy.



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- 4.2 SFCFB will clearly communicate its commitment to providing free and unconditional food assistance for residents through various channels, including its website, promotional materials, in SFCFB's location and through in-person interactions.
- 4.3 SFCFB will regularly review and monitor its food provision programs to ensure compliance with this policy. Any concerns or deviations from the policy shall be addressed promptly, and corrective actions will be taken. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or as needed.

5.0 REFERENCE

5.1 Supporting Documents

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5.2 Cross Reference Policies

- Food Choice and Quantity
- Food Quality