

## Tips for End of Semester Food Drives

### **Basics**

The same principles as any other food drive apply. Start by contacting your local food bank to see what items they need and what items they will and will not accept; see the how to host a food drive resource for general information. In this case, your food drive will typically last for one week, as individuals move out. Again, advertise your food drive as normal, such as by hanging up posters, banners, and flyers, as well as utilizing social media.

### **Partner Up**

For a successful end of the semester food drive, you will most likely want to partner with your school's residence halls and their associated organizations. This will increase your ability to collect donations in the residential halls and will increase awareness of the drive. As per usual, you should partner up with other community service organizations on campus to help increase the scope of your drive and the number of students aware of and involved in it.

### **Location is Key**

An end of the semester food drive is most successful when the drop-off points are convenient for students, so location of these drop-off points are key. Here are some suggested locations.

- Near a trash room- While you do not want your food too close to the trash for safety reasons, placing your drop-off point near the trash is a great idea! This will encourage individuals who were going to throw out their extra food to donate it, as it would have gone to waste otherwise.
- Near other donation sites- Many campuses have donation points on campus for other items, such as clothes or cleaning supplies. Since those who are inclined to donate will be there anyway, putting your donation bins there would increase your chances of getting donations.
- Residence hall lobbies- Many residence halls have an entry area or front desk that many students pass by each day. These are great ways to collect donations as they are convenient for residents and visitors.
- Inside residence halls- To make it even more convenient for students, ask if you can place collection bins inside the residence halls themselves! This would decrease hassle for students significantly, but requires a great deal of coordination with those working in the residence halls.
- Common areas on campus- Not every student lives on campus. Thus, having collection bins at the central points of campus will allow those who do not have access to residential halls to feel included and to contribute! Place them in libraries, student unions, gyms, dining halls, coffee shops— anywhere you can think of that gets a great deal of foot traffic!