

Ideas For Opening More Often

Starting in beginning of 2027, LCFB is moving away from once a month only distribution sites. Opening more often gives neighbors peace of mind knowing they have multiple chances throughout the month to get food. Here are a few ideas to help with adding distribution days.

- Offer evening and weekend hours to allow neighbors that work to visit your pantry.
- Allow people to pick up food for their friends, family, or neighbors that can't visit during those hours.
- Offer different hours on different days to allow for neighbors that have different schedules to still pick up food.
- If you are a church or organization that have staff available during business hours, like a church secretary, consider offering emergency food assistance for people that need food in between your distributions. Even just having a pre-bagged option can be helpful in these instances!
- Post the Find Help QR code (<https://lowcountryfoodbank.org/about-us/partner-agencies/>) at your agency or tell your neighbors about the LCFB website so neighbors know where else they can get food.
- Encourage your church to allocate a portion of the budget to buy food for neighbors in immediate need or even to allow your pantry director to go to the store with neighbors to shop for emergency needs.
- Try to be consistent with hours to show your neighbors that they can rely on that service. If you do need to cancel a distribution, make sure to thoroughly communicate with your neighbors.
- Get to know the other agencies around you, so that you can make sure your days and hours are complimenting each other- it's also a great opportunity to network with each other and share ideas!
- If you're not sure what hours would work best for your community, try surveying your neighbors about the hours that work best for them.
- Use the free Vivery texting feature to remind your neighbors when you are serving- you can even print a QR code, so that neighbors can sign themselves up to receive texts from your agency. Go here: <https://www.vivery.org/food-pantries/> to learn more.
- Consider recording videos and posting them on Facebook to show neighbors what to expect during your distribution and to advertise your pantry.

