Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of Frequently Asked Questions that may assist you in deciding to get involved and help end food insecurity!

Q: What foods can be donated?
A: Almost anything you serve or sell can be donated. There are a few exceptions: baby food and formula that has exceeded its expiration date cannot be donated.

Q: Who can I contact if I have questions about donation?
A: If you have any questions related to the safe donation of food, please contact Environmental Health Services at 805-781-5544.

Q: How do we ensure the food is safe for distribution?
A: It is important to maintain the foods that will be donated in the same safe manner in which you hold other foods intended to be sold. A toolkit for donation is available at: www.slocounty.ca.gov/SafeFoodDonation.aspx for detailed information on how to handle foods to be donated safely.

Q: Can I be held liable for donating food?
A: The California Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and federal law offer protection.

Q: To what organizations can I donate food?
A: A growing number of organizations are working to recover wholesome surplus food to provide meals to families in need. To find food rescue groups in your area visit http://sustainableamerica.org/foodrescue/.

You can always contact your health inspector if you have any questions regarding safe food handling measures at Environmental Health Services at 805-781-5544.