

DOC FACT SHEET:

NYC DOC and Food Bank For New York City Collaboration



LENDING HANDS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In partnership with the Food Bank For New York City (Food Bank), DOC has launched the Lending Hands Program to provide opportunities for those in custody to give back to the community. These activities involve the preparation of food for New Yorkers in need. Upon completion, the participants in the program will receive a certificate stating the number of hours they worked at Food Bank as well as the variety of skills acquired through the program. This provides a valuable service to Food Bank since there is a constant need for volunteers who can provide consistent support.

Food Bank relies on the help of about 800 volunteers weekly at their Community Kitchen, Food Distribution Warehouse, pantries and other initiatives. Working at the warehouse allows participants to gain skills that can assist them in finding employment upon their return to the community.

GOALS (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- Reduction of idle time and engagement in productive activities. Workforce development: Enhancement of work ethic and exposure to food distribution industry.
- Opportunity to learn about and practice teamwork.
- Engagement in a public service in the community.

SCHEDULE / OPERATIONS:

- Up to 12 persons a day will take part in each group. All volunteers are reviewed by DOC's Security and Program teams before participating. DOC officers will supervise.
- Food Bank assigns designated staff to work with these participants.
- DOC reviews security protocol with Food Bank staff.
- There will be no other volunteers at Food Bank on these designated days.

PARTICIPANTS:

- The items used at Food Bank are reviewed and inspected by the assigned DOC officers prior to packaging and counted at the end of the day.
- Those in custody will receive a certificate verifying the number of days of participation as well as the skills acquired through this program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

- Must apply and be interviewed.
- Must have 90 days or less in their sentence.
- Must be approved by DOC for an outside work detail.
- Must have no infractions within the previous 30-day period.



For 35 years, Food Bank For New York City has been the city's major hunger-relief organization working to end hunger throughout the five boroughs. Nearly one in five New Yorkers relies on Food Bank for food and other resources. Food Bank takes a strategic, multifaceted approach that provides meals and builds capacity in the neediest communities. Through its network of more than 1,000 charities and schools citywide, Food Bank provides more than 61 million free meals per year for New Yorkers in need. Food Bank For New York City's income support services, including food stamps (also known as SNAP) and free tax assistance for the working poor, put more than \$110 million each year into the pockets of New Yorkers, helping them to afford food. To learn more about how you can help, please visit foodbanknyc.org.