

# LITTLE FREE PANTRY

## FAQs

### 1. What is the Little Free Pantry?

The Little Free Pantry is a resource to community members who are experiencing food insecurity. It also provides an opportunity for neighbors to help neighbors by way of donating non-perishable food and personal items. The Little Free Pantry is a solution to immediate and local need for food and is most often for those who are not easily able to meet everyday food and personal needs. Installation of a Little Free Pantry in your neighborhood would expand access to food and would impact the community in a positive way.

### 2. Can you provide me with the 26 locations?

The locations for the Little Free Pantry program have not been predetermined and will be based on where the most need is from the applications that are received, with hopes that they will be equally spread across the city. Once the locations have been determined, a map of all Little Free Pantry locations will be published for the public.

### 3. Will the community be responsible for stocking the Little Free Pantry?

The Little Free Pantry motto is "Take What You Need, Leave What You Can" with the hopes that as a community, we can help fight food insecurity by helping keep the pantries stocked for those in need.

They are meant to be a community-run food resource that will be maintained by Little Free Pantry's Hosts and Stewards. A successfully stocked Little Free Pantry requires an involved community that will fill the box with non-perishable foods and small personal hygiene products on a regular basis.

### 4. When does the program begin and when will it end?

The deadline to apply for a free Little Free Pantry kit and supplies is February 5, 2021. The program itself is self-sustaining and resident led.

### 5. Do you have data on food insecurity in Riverside?

Please visit the following links for data on food insecurity in Riverside:

**Please see page 10 of the data report from 211:**

<https://secureservercdn.net/50.62.198.70/284.a84.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/211report2017.pdf>



For more information, contact  
[Neighbor@RiversideCA.gov](mailto:Neighbor@RiversideCA.gov)

### **Riverside County Food Insecurity Rate**

42% of adults & 55% of children in Riverside County are food insecure

<https://nourishca.org/GeneralNutrition/CFPAPublications/FoodInsecurity-Factsheet-2019.pdf>

### **Coronavirus Increases Hunger – Patch Article**

“Job loss and other economic crises associated with the coronavirus could push the rate of food insecurity in Riverside County to 15.7 percent of the population by the end of the year, according to Feeding America”

<https://patch.com/california/murrieta/coronavirus-increases-hunger-find-food-bank-rivco>

### **UCR Student Food Insecurity**

“More than 6 out of 10, or 62.5%, of UCR students surveyed experience food insecurity”

<https://basicneeds.ucr.edu/food-insecurity>

## **6. Will they be placed on residential, business or faith-based properties?**

We are looking for Pantry Hosts: people who are willing to have the unit installed on their property. This can be a residence, business or community-based organization.

## **7. Are there specific locations recommended for placing the pantries? How do I know if my property is a good location?**

It is critical that the surrounding area has a need for food. The following guidelines should be considered in choosing a location for a Little Free Pantry:

- The Little Free Pantry should be in a safe, well-lit area.
- It can be placed on private property if property owner grants permission.
- Consider weather (heat, rain, winds) when placing the pantry.
- The Little Free Pantry should be easily accessible to the public. If in an area where people travel by car, sites should be safely accessible by car with no impact on local traffic.

## **8. I would like more information about the application, the process, and requirements for this project.**

We are looking for Pantry Hosts: people who are willing to allow the unit to be installed on their property and it can be a residence, business or community-based organization. The Pantry will need to have a Pantry Steward: somebody who is committed to looking after the pantry, cleaning and stocking when needed.



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Eligibility will be determined by greatest need, accessibility and equitably spread across the city limits.

Community members can give what they can or take what they need. Each Little Free Pantry comes in a kit and will need to be assembled and installed.

Members of the community who believe their neighborhood will benefit from this can apply to request a pantry kit to install in a location of their choosing. Gift cards to implement installation, painting and initial stocking have been secured and will be distributed with each Pantry kit.

Once approved, an agreement is required before supplies can be released to the Little Free Pantry Host. Little Free Pantry Stewards will be required to attend a mandatory virtual training.

### **9. How can I go about getting more information?**

Please email [neighbor@riversideca.gov](mailto:neighbor@riversideca.gov) or visit <https://www.riversideca.gov/cares> for more information.

### **10. Who would be eligible to participate as a steward and host?**

Eligible participants or organizations must be within the Riverside city limits and must have a willingness to commit to the program.

### **11. Where is a good place to drop off food, paper goods for those who need help?**

Once each Little Free Pantry location has been secured and the unit has been installed, contact information for each Little Free Pantry will be available.

### **12. Is this program only for the city of Riverside?**

This program has been funded through the CARES Act and facilitated by the City of Riverside; therefore, approved locations MUST be within Riverside city limits.

### **13. What is to keep this pantry from being cleaned out?**

Each Little Free Pantry is typically stocked organically. Those who wish to contribute may do so at their discretion. If demand outpaces supply and the Little Free Pantry is often empty, the Steward Pamphlet has a few helpful tips that will help keep the pantry stocked, such as holding food drives in the neighborhood or sending out social media posts asking for donations.



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