



## The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act

Currently, 1 in 8 Americans is unable to secure adequate nutrition. For the more than **42 million** people forced to make choices between food and other basic necessities, the Feeding America network offers hope for a brighter future. Hunger is everywhere—down the street, at work, on the playground and at the senior center. And even as the economy is improving, the need for our services remains high.

Through **200 food banks** and **60,000 food pantries and meal programs**, we touch the lives of Americans in every county in the country by providing families and individuals with nutritious food, hope and dignity. While we can measure the impact of Feeding America in the number of meals delivered and number of individuals served, nothing can measure what it means to help everyday people take control of their lives. For the people we serve, hope is a hot meal, a bag of groceries, a well-nourished child.

Federal law gives food donors liability protection for food donated and plays a critical role in encouraging the donation of excess nutritious food to people in need.

### What Does the Law Do?

The Good Samaritan Act encourages the donation of food and grocery products to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations for distribution to needy individuals. The law protects all food and grocery donors who donate apparently wholesome food in good-faith from civil and criminal liability. The Emerson Act also provides uniform federal protection and replaces all state laws, including those in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and all U.S. territories and possessions. Under the national law, food donors need only seek protection under one law.

### Who is Protected?

The law protects all food and grocery donors, including individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, governmental entities, wholesalers, manufacturers, retailers, farmers, gleaners and non-profit feeding program administrators who donate food and grocery products in good faith. While exceptions are noted for gross negligence, the law states that these groups will not be subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging or condition of apparently wholesome food or an apparently fit grocery product.



# Impact

The collective partnerships between Feeding America's national office and our local food banks increase efficiencies and maximize impact. Together, we are bigger, better, stronger and more effective than the sum of our parts.

## 46 MILLION AMERICANS

served annually, including 12 million children and 7 million seniors.

## 4 BILLION MEALS

sourced annually.

## 200 FOOD BANKS

in the network.

## 2 MILLION VOLUNTEERS

help carry out our vision for a hunger-free America.

## 11 MEALS DISTRIBUTED

for each dollar donated.

## 1.25 BILLION POUNDS

of fruit and vegetables sourced by the network.



FeedingAmerica.org

## What Kinds of Donations are Protected?

The Emerson Act provides protection for food and grocery products that meet all quality labeling standards imposed by federal, state and local laws and regulations. This includes products that may not be readily marketable due to age, appearance, freshness, grade, size, or surplus. Grocery products can include nonfood products, like disposable paper or plastic products, household cleaning products, laundry detergent, personal care items, or other household items.

## Is My Company Liable Once A Food Donation Has Been Made?

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act was created to encourage the donation of food and grocery products to 501(c)3 certified non-profit organizations. Under this Act, as long as the donor has not acted with negligence or intentional misconduct, the company is not liable for damage incurred as the result of illness.

## HOW FEEDING AMERICA PROVIDES MEALS



**DONATIONS ARE MADE:** Feeding America secures donations from national and local retailers, foodservice locations, food companies and government agencies.



**FOOD IS MOVED:** The Feeding America network of food banks moves donated food and grocery products to where they are needed most.



**FOOD IS DISTRIBUTED & STORED:** Member food banks ensure the safe storage and reliable distribution of donated goods to local feeding programs.



**FOOD REACHES PEOPLE IN NEED:** Food banks provide food and grocery items to people in need at food pantries, soup kitchens, youth programs, seniors centers and emergency shelters.

## FOOD SOURCES

### TOTAL 4 BILLION MEALS

Feeding America relies on these primary areas to create a steady source of food for its food banks across the country.  
(Numbers for fiscal year 2016)



\*Prepared meal providers such as restaurants, hotels and convenience stores

\*\*Estimated

To learn more, please visit [feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org).

Support Feeding America and help end hunger.

**DONATE. VOLUNTEER. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE.**

