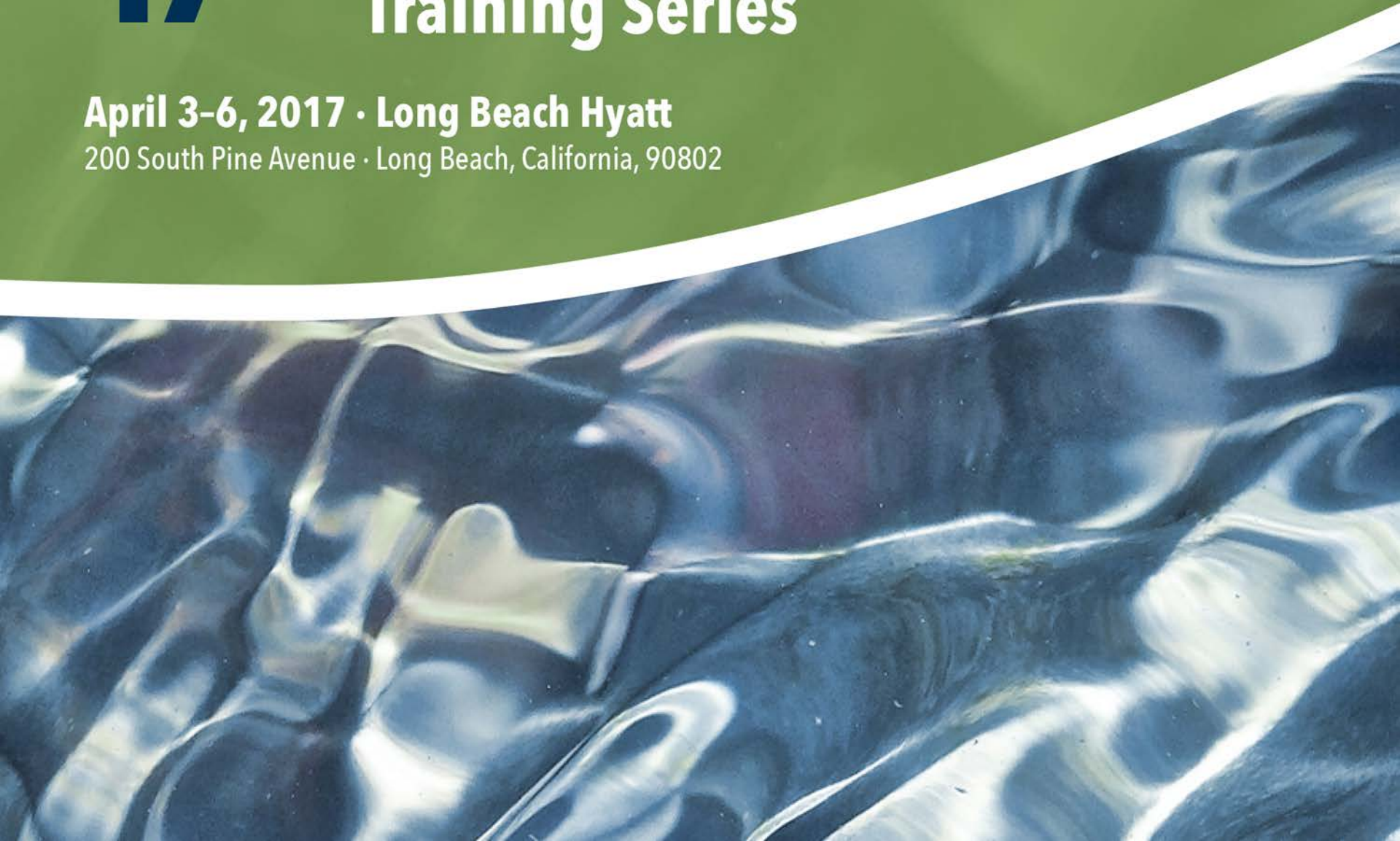


# 17<sup>th</sup> Technical Training Series



**April 3-6, 2017 · Long Beach Hyatt**  
200 South Pine Avenue · Long Beach, California, 90802



# The Los Angeles County Food Redistribution Initiative (LACFRI)

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## Food Waste in Los Angeles County



Los Angeles County produces the most food waste in the state of California

28% of the total waste generated in the City of Los Angeles alone is organic waste

## Food Recovery in Los Angeles County

It is estimated that 25,000 tons of food is rescued annually in the City of Los Angeles

This represents only 3% of the total food waste stream in the city

## Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County

Food insecurity: “little to no” access by all people at all times to consume enough food for an active, healthy life

14% (about 1.4 million people) in LA County

# Food Recovery Hierarchy

Most

**Source Reduction**  
Reduce the volume of surplus food generated

**Feed Hungry People**  
Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters

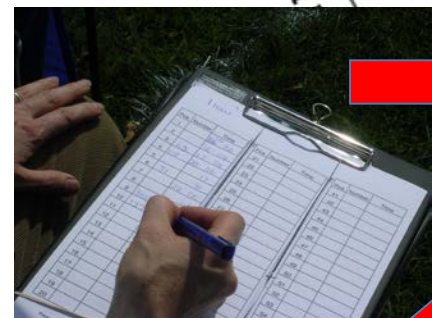
**Feed Animals**  
Divert food scraps to animal feed

**Industrial Uses**  
Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy

**Composting**  
Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment

**Landfill/  
Incineration**  
Last resort to disposal

Least Preferred



## The Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act



- **Protects you from liability** when you donate to a non-profit organization (501c3);
- **Protects you from civil and criminal liability** should the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the recipient
- **Standardizes donor liability exposure.** You or your legal counsel do not need to investigate liability laws in 50 states; and
- **Sets a floor of "gross negligence"** or intentional misconduct for persons who donate grocery products.

## AB 1219 (Eggman)

- Undergoing review
- Expands Good Samaritan Act
  - Expands definition of “donor”
  - Expands definition of “recipient” beyond 501c3 organizations



## A Few Common Myths about Food Donations

“The health department does not allow excess food to be donated.”

“Food facilities will get sued if someone gets sick from the donated food.”

## A Few Common Myths about Food Donations

“My local public school is not allowed to donate surplus food.”

## LA County Food Redistribution Initiative (LACFRI)

- An initiative begun by the Los Angeles Department of Public Health, inspired by Waste Not OC
- Currently housed in LADPH – Environmental Health



## LACFRI's Approach

- We would like to approach the food waste issue holistically.
- Addressing **prevention, recovery, and recycling** of food waste, with a special emphasis on food donation.



# I would like to donate food – what are the first steps?

## 1. Plan Ahead: Find a nearby 501c3 organization that fits your needs

- Call 211 – ask for nearby pantries or soup kitchens in your area
- Visit [www.211la.org](http://www.211la.org) to see a list of nearby pantries or soup kitchens
- If you're in doubt whether an organization is a 501c3, visit <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/exempt-organizations-select-check> and search their name or EIN number

**I would like to donate food – what are the first steps?**

## **2. Call and meet with the organization**

– Determine logistics

- What foods can they accept?
- How much can they accept?
- How often?
- When are the best times to receive food?
- Can they pick up or am I willing to deliver?

– Start small!

# I would like to donate food – what are the first steps?

## 3. Understand the food safety guidelines

- You are not held liable, but public health is everyone’s concern. We can help you!
- Handout – Guidelines for Safe Food Donation
- Coming December 1 – Additional food donation resources will be included in <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/>
- **Call me if you need help getting started, let’s iron out the details!**

# The Good Samaritan Law/Existing LADPH Flyer

Our Vision: A Healthy and Sustainable Environment for the Residents of Los Angeles County

## Food Facility Operators Guidelines for Safe Food Donation

Donating surplus food from hotels, restaurants, other food facilities, and catered events can be a great way to help local missions and other charitable organizations that serve those in need. Although a special public health permit is not required, donating or receiving surplus foods must be done in a way that minimizes food safety risks. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Environmental Health Division has prepared the following food safety guidelines to help facilitate safe food donations.

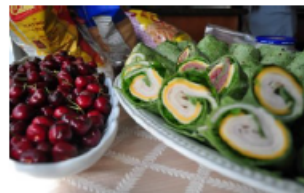
### Approved Source of Donated Foods

Prepared foods and meals must be donated only by permitted restaurants, hotels, food processing facilities, food distributors, or catered events. Donated foods are limited to foods or food portions which have not been previously served to a consumer. Individuals who wish to donate food should only provide uncooked, pre-packaged food products that can be prepared on site by approved food handlers.



### Facilities Receiving Donated Foods

Most missions or charitable organizations receiving donated foods operate under a public health permit so they are familiar with food handling requirements. If an organized event or charitable organization does not operate under a public health permit, the donated foods are to be immediately served and consumed.



### Temperature Control

Donated foods that require temperature control must always remain at 41°F or below for cold foods or 135°F or above for hot foods, prior to transportation. When refrigerated transport is available, foods should be held below 41°F, while in transport to the venue. If refrigerated transport is not available, the food items should be labeled "Process Immediately" and must not be out of temperature controls for more than 2 hours. Donations consisting of whole produce, canned goods, dry foods and other similar products can be delivered anytime with no requirement for temperature controls or delivery times.



The food donor must check to ensure proper temperatures at the time of the transfer to the receiving facility or food transporter. The person-in-charge at the receiving venue should also check the temperature of the food upon receipt and note the time that the food is received. See the attached sample Food Donation Delivery Form on page 3 for an outline of helpful information that should be captured upon delivering, transporting or receiving foods.

Our Vision: A Healthy and Sustainable Environment for the Residents of Los Angeles County

## Food Facility Operators Food Donation Guidelines, continued

### Protection from Contamination

Food must be protected from potential contamination at all times through the use of sanitary, food-grade containers, and by ensuring that transport vehicles are clean and free of vermin.

### Questions?

For more information, please contact Environmental Health at (626) 430-5200 during business hours, 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday; call the 24-hour toll-free number 1-800-950-2885 or e-mail ehmail@ph.lacounty.gov.

## State and Federal Food Donation Statutes

### California Health and Safety Code, Section 114432

Any food facility may donate food to a food bank or to any other nonprofit charitable organization for distribution to persons free of charge.

### California Health and Safety Code, Section 114433

No food facility that donates food as permitted by Section 114432 shall be subject to civil or criminal liability or penalty for violation of any laws, regulations, or ordinances regulating the labeling or packaging of the donated product or, with respect to any laws, regulations, or ordinances, for a violation occurring after the time of donation.

### California Civil Code, Section 1714.25(a)

Except for injury resulting from negligence or a willful act in the preparation or handling of donated food, no food facility that donates any food that is fit for human consumption at the time it was donated to a nonprofit charitable organization or a food bank shall be liable for any damage or injury resulting from the consumption of the donated food. The immunity from civil liability provided by this subdivision applies regardless of compliance with any laws, regulations, or ordinances regulating the packaging or labeling of food, and regardless of compliance with any laws, regulations, or ordinances regulating the storage or handling of the food by the donee after the donation of food.

### United State Code, Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, Title 42, Chapter 13A, Section 1791

(c)(1) A person or gleaner shall 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 that the person or gleaner donates in good faith to a nonprofit organization for ultimate distribution to needy individuals.  
(f) This section shall not be construed to create any liability. Nothing in this section shall be construed to supercede State or local health regulations.



# LACFRI Webpage

Link: [publichealth.lacounty.gov/  
eh/misc/LACFRI.htm](https://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/misc/LACFRI.htm)

# Food Donation Resources (National/State/Local)

## Food Donation Resources in Los Angeles County

### Organizations that pick up surplus food and deliver it to the needy

#### Food Finders

Diana Lara  
dlara@foodfinders.org  
(562) 283-1400  
[foodfinders.org/food-donations](http://foodfinders.org/food-donations)

### Backyard harvesting, farmers market recovery, and wholesale recovery

#### Food Forward

General questions: [info@foodforward.org](mailto:info@foodforward.org)

Donating backyard fruit:  
[harvest@foodforward.org](mailto:harvest@foodforward.org) or call (818) 530-4125

Farmers Market Recovery Program (food rescue): [fmrecovery@foodforward.org](mailto:fmrecovery@foodforward.org) or call (818) 764-1022 ext. 6

Wholesale Recovery Program:  
[luis@foodforward.org](mailto:luis@foodforward.org)

[foodforward.org/about/](http://foodforward.org/about/)

### Organizations that help connect donors to pantries/soup kitchens

#### Food Donation Connection

[ContactUs@foodtodonate.com](mailto:ContactUs@foodtodonate.com)  
(800) 831-8161  
[foodtodonate.com](http://foodtodonate.com)

#### Urban Harvester

Serving the Pasadena Area and Surrounding Communities  
[info@urbanharvester.org](mailto:info@urbanharvester.org)  
[urbanharvester.org](http://urbanharvester.org)

### School food donations

#### Food Bus

[foodbus.org/about-us](http://foodbus.org/about-us)

#### Food Finders

Diana Lara  
dlara@foodfinders.org  
(562) 283-1400  
[foodfinders.org/food-donations](http://foodfinders.org/food-donations)

### Additional food pantry directories

Note: Not all pantries are equipped to handle all food, call in advance first!

#### The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

[lafoodbank.org/get-help/pantry-locator](http://lafoodbank.org/get-help/pantry-locator)

#### Ample Harvest

[ampleharvest.org/find-pantry](http://ampleharvest.org/find-pantry)

#### 2-1-1 Los Angeles County

[211la.org](http://211la.org)  
Type "food" in the keyword search field, and type in your zip code. The closer it is to your facility the better.

#### Food Recovery Guide

Los Angeles Area Food Recovery Guide (Published 2017) 📖

#### EPA Links and Resources

EPA Links and Resources for Los Angeles County

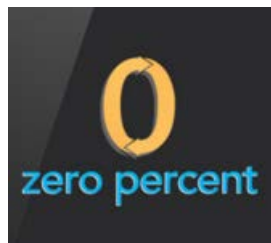
## Existing Food Rescue Apps/Sites



Chow Match



**CROPJOBSTER™**  
Community Exchange



transfernation



LeftoverSwap



- Bread and Butter
- Cerplus
- Chow Match (2 counties in Northern CA and 1 county in MD)
- Copia (Northern CA)
- CropMobster (Northern CA)
- Food Cowboy (USA)
- LeftoverSwap
- Olio (UK)
- SpoilerAlert (Northeast USA)
- Too Good To Go (UK)
- Transfarnation (New York)
- Unsung
- Zero Percent

# LA County Food Redistribution Initiative – A Public/Private Partnership

## County Departments

## Nonprofits

## Private Sector



## Current Ideas and Work in Progress

- Kaiser Permanente
- Partnership with LA County Public Works
- City of Burbank
- School Food Donation/Share Table Policies
- Health Inspector Outreach Challenges



# Want to learn more?

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[bsilva@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:bsilva@ph.lacounty.gov)