



Healthy Food Access Pantry Training Program



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The **Healthy Food Access Pantry Training Program** is a 6-month, interactive course designed to increase healthy food access in food pantries. Meeting 1-hour monthly, the program provides in-depth training and resources on various topics, as outlined in the table below.

The training is open to pantries of all sizes, and we are committed to meeting you where you are. While having a pantry team participate is preferred for sustaining the work, it is not required. However, we do ask that at least one member of your team attends each session.

Training 1: Nutritionally and culturally appropriate foods and how to complete a needs assessment	January/July
Action Step: 1. Conduct a survey among your participants to gather input on nutritionally and culturally suitable foods, and then establish a strategy to provide these food options.	
Supplemental TA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with NCCARE360 for referring/accepting referrals 	
Training 2: Requesting and soliciting healthy, culturally appropriate donations and widening your donation pool	February/August
Action Steps: 1. Send donation request letters, including your healthy donation list, to 3-5 groups to widen your donation pool.	



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2. Create a Healthy Dietary and Culturally Appropriate Pantry Donation List; seek approval for their implementation with your pantry leadership. Display the donation list prominently on the pantry wall and incorporate it into the pantry binder.

Supplemental TA:

- Partnering with food banks
- Connect with [Food Recovery](#)

Training 3:

Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP)

March/September

Action Steps:

1. Schedule SWAP Kit TA to start the process of implementing SWAP in your pantry.
2. Inventory, evaluate, and label all of the green category foods pantry food categories.

Supplemental TA:

- Connect with Nutrition Ed classes ([video](#))

Training 4:

Food safety for pantries

April/October

Action Step:

1. Complete a template to determine best practices you would want to implement in your food pantry to keep food safety.

Supplemental TA:

- Additional Food Safety

Training 5:

Nudges and Bundling

May/November

Action Steps:

1. Start the use of nudges and bundling in your pantry.

Supplemental TA:

- Grant writing webinar
- Connect with More In My Basket

Training 6:

Produce Rx Introduction

June/December



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Action Steps:

1. Complete your Certification Form.

Supplemental TA:

- Connect with Faithful Families

Recognition Program:

At the end of 6 months, if your pantry has implemented 2-5 of those actions steps, your pantry will receive a certification. **The Healthy Food Access Pantry Certification is a tiered system which is displayed below:**

- ★ Gold Tier Certification: must complete all 5 months of action steps by the end of the cohort
- ★ Silver Tier Certification: completes 4 months of action steps by the end of the cohort
- ★ Bronze Tier Certification: completes 2-3 months of action steps by the end of the cohort

- ★ Your pantry may continue to advance on your own after cohort ends to complete higher tiered certification. Reevaluation prompts will be offered on a 6 month basis.

Pantries can contact courtney.ramsey@dhhs.nc.gov to sign up for the next training session.