

**CALGARY
FOOD BANK**

Community Partnerships Report 2024 – 2025



March 2026

The Calgary Food Bank has created a network of over 100 agencies and organizations working together to make food accessible to everyone in our city. While the Calgary Food Bank is known for operating the Emergency Food Hamper program, one of Canada’s largest direct-to-client food distribution initiatives, it also runs six community partnership programs that provide thousands of pounds of food every week to Calgary charities, schools, and institutions.

Last September, our community partners completed a feedback survey. This report presents highlights from our partners, along with Calgary Food Bank program-specific insights from September 2024 to August 2025.

With over **4,400 orders** fulfilled and **3.2 million pounds** of food distributed, the equivalent value of food provided to partner programs was **\$11,408,239**. These cost-savings have made it possible for our partners to divert funding from purchasing food to other priorities, like purchasing supplies or serving more people. For 1 in 10 Food Link and Outreach Food Support partners, the Calgary Food Bank partnership was essential in enabling them to provide any food within their programs. The table below provides a breakdown of food distribution by each Calgary Food Bank program.

Food Distribution Data by Partner Program			
Calgary Food Bank Program	Average weight per order (lbs.)	Number of orders fulfilled	Proportion of all food distributed
Breakfast Club of Canada Partnership	161	660	3%
Food Grants	618	29	1%
Food Link	947	2622	77%
Food Share	8008	42	10%
Outreach Food Support	408	733	9%

Overview of Programs

The Calgary Food Bank’s six partner-serving programs focus on providing support to different populations across Calgary. Below is an overview of each program and highlights from fiscal year 2024-2025.

Breakfast Club of Canada and the Calgary Food Bank have partnered since 2017. This program allowed 41 schools to access BCC funding, and the food bank’s purchasing power to acquire bulk food at discounted prices. Each school saved approximately \$1,644 on food this school year. Orders are stored at the Calgary Food Bank, with 93% of schools having received biweekly or monthly deliveries of food. This method helped 88% of schools save time acquiring food.

Food Grants provides registered charities with a no-cost order of ingredients to prepare for a client-focused event. Last fiscal year, 85% of organizations reported that Food Grants helped them save money, which allowed them to provide better support to their clients (83%), and reach more people (83%) than would have been possible otherwise.

Food Link provided 81 partner programs with ingredients such as frozen meat, flour, and fresh fruits and vegetables, enabling them to prepare meals (67%) and snacks (94%) for their clients. These partner programs delivered a wide range of services to vulnerable populations, including:

- Casework (62%)
- Shelter or housing support (58%)
- Social and recreational programs (58%)
- Counselling services (57%)
- Education or training (41%)

An example of one of these partners is The Salvation Army, which has collaborated with the Calgary Food Bank since 2004, and is one of its longest-standing partnerships. Our survey shows that Food Link provides vital support in the community—nearly half of its partners reported that they used 100% of the food issued. This fiscal year, Food Link introduced a 'Snack Stream' to better support those organizations that focus on snack distribution. This helped to streamline services and reduce waitlists.

Food Share provides excess dry or frozen inventory to other foods banks in Alberta and British Columbia. Food Share distributed the second highest proportion of food of all partner-serving programs, despite fulfilling just 42 orders. Many Food Share partners depend on these large donations, which sometimes make up half of their output, with a reported range of 5% - 51% in the previous fiscal year.

Housewarming provides non-food supplies and pantry staples to individuals moving out of temporary shelters into permanent housing. Clients saw cost-savings and an improvement in their overall move-in experience, as reported by 96% of survey respondents. This program also serves to connect households with the Calgary Food Bank's direct-to-client Emergency Food Hamper program, with 82% of clients continuing to receive food hampers after becoming housed.

Outreach Food Support provides food suitable for street outreach teams serving unhoused individuals. The food supplied is nutrient dense, non-perishable, and easy to prepare and includes items such as protein drinks, fruit cups, and granola bars. Responding to the growth in demand, Outreach Food Support expanded to include six additional programs, for a total of 22 partners. Our outreach partners reported that they served over 80,000 food packages, containing 1-15 items per bag, and that nearly three-quarters of the food came from the Calgary Food Bank. Our survey

shows that Outreach Food Support provided the food partners needed, with nearly all (97%) of the items supplied by the Calgary Food Bank being utilized.

Looking to the future, the Calgary Food Bank will continue to assess and explore program delivery improvements that will give community partners access to the food they need, in a responsive and efficient manner.