

HOW TO ORGANIZE A COMMUNITY FRIDGE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

STEP 1: BUILD A TEAM

Connect with your neighbors and/or a mutual aid network in your area. Identify other organizers and networks of people who can support your community fridge initiative.

STEP 2: START THE CONVERSATION

Decide where you will communicate, and start a group conversation online where you can begin strategizing who and how people will be involved.

STEP 3: DISCUSS THE LOGISTICS

Where will the food come from? Who will pick it up? Who has a bike or a vehicle? Identify who, and how people want to be involved. There are many tasks required to collectively maintain the community fridge, from collecting food, reaching out to businesses, individuals and mutual aid networks in your community to cleaning, restocking, sharing information, making art and more.

STEP 4: CONNECT THE DOTS

There are multiple ways to get food for the fridge. Much of the food shared has been through food rescue, including dumpster diving and non-charitable food donations (i.e. food that a grocery store cannot or is not planning to sell such as produce with cosmetic blemishes or food near its best-buy date). Make a list of locations near you where food can be collected or rescued. Reach out to bakeries, grocery stores and restaurants. Try to coordinate a time to pick up and discuss mutual aid with your community.

STEP 5: THE FRIDGE

Decide on a location for the fridge. Make considerations that account for electricity, weather and accessibility. When a location has been arranged it will be time to find a fridge. Look for free refrigerator on Craigslist. If you're having trouble finding a fridge contact us and we can try to help. Be sure the fridge is plugged into an outlet with no other appliances to not overload the circuit and trip the breaker. You may need an extension cord. Make a sign so that people know there is free food available.

STEP 6: MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM

Work together to keep the fridge clean and stocked.

This requires daily coordination, follow-ups, food rescue, pickup and delivery to the fridge.

GET INVOLVED, GET IN TOUCH:

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