



## Effective July 1, 2024

### Important Update Regarding Cost-Sharing for Culturally Responsive Foods

Dear Partners,

We're writing to inform you about an upcoming change to the Food Bank's cost-sharing model, **effective July 1, 2024**. The goal of this adjustment is to enhance our ability to provide culturally responsive food options for our partner pantries and their guests.

Currently, we offer vegetable oil at no cost. However, this has resulted in an annual expense of approximately \$125,000. We believe these resources can be better utilized to obtain and share other culturally responsive food items that cater to the diverse needs of our communities, while better addressing food- and nutrition-insecurity.

To achieve this goal, **starting July 1st**, vegetable oil will be categorized under our purchased inventory (**P806**). However, we're still committed to supporting your efforts. **Like other purchased items (please refer to page 2 for an overview of our general cost-sharing model), you'll receive a 25% discount off our cost of vegetable oil.** Also, available spices and corn flour will still be free to your organization.

We understand this change may require adjustments on your end. We appreciate your understanding as we prioritize donor funding to meet the unique needs of our guests.

This decision reflects our ongoing commitment to maximize food acquisition and other support services for our partner pantries. We are confident this shift will allow us to offer a wider selection of culturally responsive food options over time, ensuring a more inclusive food bank experience for everyone. As our plans come together, we will share more information about how we are working to diversify our inventory.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of your communities.

Sincerely,

Tyler Herman  
Director of Partner Engagement

## **BRAFB's Partner Cost-Sharing Agreement**

*To help our partners operate effectively and to obtain and distribute more food and more nutritious food, with the support of our donors the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank offers the following cost-sharing structure.*

**Donated Food/Products** – All food and products *donated* to the Food Bank are provided free to you.

**Delivery Fees** – Waived. Work with your local Food Bank Branch Manager to schedule deliveries at a mutually agreeable frequency and time.

**Purchased Food** - You share the expense of your purchased food by reimbursing 75% of the Food Bank's purchase price (**a 25% discount**). On occasion, and depending on availability, we may announce that costs for specific products are reduced or eliminated to move additional products quickly through our warehouses.

### **You can also access TEFAP/USDA Food at no cost**

Qualifying partners may distribute food acquired by the Food Bank from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) of the US Department of Agriculture. Healthy and diverse food options are available to you at no cost, including delivery fees.

And with updates to Virginia's TEFAP Plan, agencies are eligible – but not required – to provide USDA foods to clients once a week, with no limits on quantity of items per household.

Please ask your Partner Engagement Manager if you want to explore the requirements of TEFAP food distribution and see if your agency is eligible.