

No Cost Food Access Policy

1.0 PURPOSE

UHC – Hub of Opportunities (UHC) assists in addressing food insecurity by providing free, unconditional and dignified food assistance, ensuring inclusivity, respect, and confidentiality for those in need.

UHC is committed to ensuring that its core food-support services are provided at no financial cost and without being tied to any implicit or explicit conditions.

2.0 POLICY

UHC is committed to ensuring that core food-support services to clients are provided at no cost, and without being implicitly/explicitly tied to other conditions (such as volunteer participation, donation requirements, engagement in faith-based activities, attendance at events, completion of surveys, participation in programming, or any other form of exchange or expectation)

Core food-support services shall not be contingent upon financial contributions, mandatory participation in programming, religious or faith-based activities, volunteer service, or any other requirement beyond standard intake processes necessary for operational, safety, reporting, or funder accountability purposes.

This policy applies to all food-related programs and services offered by UHC, including but not limited to food distribution and any other initiatives involving the provision of food.

3.0 PRINCIPLES

UHC is guided by the following principles:

- 3.1 UHC maintains its commitment to providing food assistance to clients facing food insecurity without imposing any implicit or explicit conditions. This policy aims to create an environment of inclusivity, dignity, and respect for all individuals seeking support from UHC.
- 3.2 UHC provides food assistance to residents facing food insecurity without any form of charge or obligation. The provision of food is unconditional and is not contingent upon any criteria such as income, background, or participation in other programs or services. Basic information may be collected solely for operational, safety, reporting, or funder accountability purposes and shall not be used to restrict access to food.
- 3.3 UHC is committed to a non-discriminatory approach in providing food assistance. No individual shall be denied access to food on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.
- 3.4 UHC recognizes the importance of preserving the dignity of individuals seeking food assistance. The organization shall strive to create an atmosphere of respect and empathy, avoiding stigmatization or judgment in any form.

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- 3.5 Refusal to provide optional information or to participate in surveys, programming, or other activities shall not result in denial or limitation of food access.

4.0 PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Personal information of individuals seeking food assistance shall be treated with the utmost confidentiality. UHC staff and volunteers must respect the privacy of those accessing food services, and any information shared shall be handled in accordance with the organization's privacy policy.
- 4.2 UHC will clearly communicate its commitment to providing free and unconditional food assistance through various channels, including its website, promotional materials, posted signage in UHC's service location(s), and inclusion in client-facing materials such as intake information or welcome materials, and through in-person interactions.
- 4.3 This policy shall be publicly posted and readily accessible at all UHC service locations and on UHC's website.
- 4.4 UHC will regularly review and monitor its food provision programs to ensure compliance with this policy. The Food Bank Coordinator (or designate) is responsible for overseeing adherence to this policy, ensuring it remains publicly posted and up to date, and reporting any material issues to the Board of Directors. Any concerns or deviations from the policy shall be addressed promptly, and corrective actions will be taken. The board of directors shall receive confirmation at least annually that this policy remains in effect, publicly posted, and operationalized in practice.
- 4.5 This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or as needed.
- 4.6 This policy is publicly accessible on UHC's website and in printed form at UHC's service location(s), posted in visible areas accessible to clients.

5.0 REFERENCE

- 5.1 Supporting Documents

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- 5.2 Cross-Reference Policies

- Privacy Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Food Choice and Quantity
- Food Quality

Approved by the Board of Directors: _____

Date: March 17, 2026

Alex Keenly