



Chatham-Kent Public Health
Food Policy Council
PO Box 1136, 435 Grand Avenue West,
Chatham, ON N7M 5L8
Tel: 519.352.7270 Fax: 519.352.2166

Dear Community Agency,

Community food security is when all community residents obtain a safe, culturally appropriate, and nutritious diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance, social justice, and equal access for everyone. It addresses issues in the economic, environmental and social aspects of the food system, and thus promotes adequate incomes for consumers and producers; local and diverse food production; environmental sustainability; protection of local agricultural lands and fish habitat; widespread access to nutritious food; and food-based community economic development and social cohesion.

Gleaning is one initiative that works to support community food security by increasing local food availability, food access, and food use. Gleaning is commonly understood as the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested, or collecting produce from individual homeowners who have excess in the gardens or on fruit trees. The Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council determined that food access is a priority area and have developed a gleaning project for Chatham-Kent. Thus, to reduce the amount of edible food that is wasted in the food system the [CK Gleaning Project](#) links food producers and community agencies to divert food that would otherwise be left in the field, to people and organizations who can use it.

As a first step, in June 2014, a forum was held to bring together individuals who were interested in hearing what had been done in other communities. During the summer of 2015, we conducted a pilot project and this was expanded into a full program during the 2016 harvest season. We continue to work closely with local producers and have been successful at bringing leftover produce to local service agencies in the community such as local food banks, soup kitchens, cooking programs, youth program, and other agencies that support individuals in our communities. We would like to continue to expand the program to include more local agencies and more local farmers, and would like to invite you to participate in the Chatham-Kent (CK) Gleaning Project.

About the CK Gleaning Project:

Vision

- Equipping people to rescue surplus produce from fields and gardens.

Mission

- Connecting food producers who have surplus produce with neighbours and community food programs through relationship building, experiential learning, and volunteer engagement.



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Program Priorities

- Building Partnerships
 - Our goal is to develop partnerships that connect local farmers and community food programs
- Facilitating Food Redistribution
 - We harvest excess produce and share with local community food programs
 - Local agencies receive gleaned produce free of charge to distribute to their clients, or for use in food banks, soup kitchens, and food skill programs.
- Helping Our Volunteers
 - We aim to identify, recruit and provide comprehensive training and supports to individuals wishing to participate in experiential learning opportunities
 - Those who help harvest the produce will also receive a portion of the food to take home and share with their families
- Developing Resources
 - Creation of tools and resources to support the gleaning program.
- Evaluating
 - Ongoing program evaluation and improvement for continued success.

Expectations for participating agencies:

- Provide us with their contact information and the type of storage facilities available
- Provide us with volunteer(s) to assist with harvesting and delivering produce.
 - Volunteers will be required to complete detailed safety training through the health unit, and are covered by the municipality.
 - In-person Training Dates will be announced on our website - <https://letstalkfood-ck.com/gleaning-volunteer-training/>
- If you do not have any volunteers to assist with gleaning, someone from your agency must be available to pick up the gleaned produce at the farmer's fields.
- We recognize that this requirement prevents all agencies from receiving the produce. Unfortunately, it is very challenging for our volunteers to deliver to several locations due to time restrictions and storage capacity in their personal vehicles. We hope to increase promotion of this program and hopefully have more volunteers available this season. If we are able to do this, there may be opportunities for agencies to have the produce delivered.
- If you are unable to provide us with a volunteer OR have staff available to pick up the produce at the farmer's fields, please contact Sharmini Balakrishnan at sharminib@chatham-kent.ca.
- All gleaned produce must be distributed to your clients for free. They cannot be sold for a price.

If your agency is interested in participating in the CK Gleaning Project, please apply using the intake form below. If your agency previously participated in this program, you are still required to complete the intake form.



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CK Gleaning Project – Community Agency Intake Form

AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency Name: _____

Address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contact Person: _____ Ext. _____

Additional Contacts (if any): _____

Can all contacts be added to the gleaning email list?	YES	NO
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GLEANING PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Are you interested in receiving produce that has been gleaned? YES NO

2. What storage facilities do you have available?

3. We will be using volunteers to harvest and collect the produce. Does your agency have volunteers or staff that could assist with the harvesting of the produce? YES NO

a. **If yes**, please provide their names and contact information to arrange their participation in the required training.

b. **If no**, your agency staff must be available to pick up the harvested produce at the farmer's fields.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the intake form. Please send your completed form to lynnlyh@chatham-kent.ca. If you have any questions, please connect with: Lynnly Hoskins at 519-352-7270 ext. 2406 or email FoodPolicyCouncil@chatham-kent.ca