

Explanation of Shared Maintenance and Co-agency Fees

Food banks incur significant costs in handling both purchased and donated food, so community support is vital. In addition to fundraising, special events, grants, or donations, food banks rely on two additional sources of funding. These sources of support are special terms that food banks use and are called Shared Maintenance and Co-Agency fees.

Shared Maintenance:

Is a fee to help cover part of our handling expenses including transportation of the food from the donor to the food bank, unloading, repacking, and eventual distribution to agencies. The shared maintenance fee is usually, but not always, charged only on surplus or rescued food donated through food manufacturers and distributors.

Our shared maintenance fee is currently 18 cents per pound. Gleaners does not currently charge a shared maintenance fee on food received through food drives, but a nominal fee of \$0.60 per box to cover the cost of the cardboard box itself.

Co-Agency:

Is a fee for food that food banks purchase in large quantities to supplement what is not received through donations. These purchases are made on behalf of member agencies and are good bargains for them because Gleaners is able to leverage dollars by buying in mass quantities. Rarely will an agency find a better value at the local grocery store. This product, like donated food, is also transported and stored at the food bank warehouse before distribution to member agencies.

It is important to note that Co-Agency and Shared Maintenance fees do not cover the entire costs of running a food bank. These fees are a way for the agencies that are served by food banks to share in a portion of food bank expenses.