



Feeding America Diabetes Initiative

Food Bank-Healthcare Partnerships to Address Diabetes

As food banks expand their services to address the dual challenges of food insecurity and chronic disease, it is critical that they partner with healthcare organizations. This assures that individuals with diabetes receive appropriate, coordinated care and that healthcare providers know what services are available to their patients with diabetes or other chronic disease.

The food banks in the [Feeding America Diabetes Initiative](#) demonstrated their role as effective partners in addressing the challenges of diabetes, reaching clients where they are with health screening, education, and access to healthy food to manage their disease. Ideal health care partners include Federally Qualified Health Centers, free and charitable clinics, county health departments, community hospitals, private physician offices, local chapters of the American Diabetes Association, and other diabetes education programs. Partnerships should be modeled to meet the needs of the community, but model partnership activities are included below.

Food Bank Role:

- Screening for diabetes in food pantries
- Distribute healthy food boxes for clients with diabetes & pre-diabetes
- Provide nutrition and health education
 - One-on-one counseling
 - Group diabetes education classes
 - Videos at food distribution sites
 - Written education materials
 - Food marketing strategies to encourage healthy food choices at food distributions
- Referrals to primary care physicians and other healthcare resources for clients

Healthcare partner role:

- Screening for food insecurity in the clinical setting and referrals to food bank programs
- Produce and healthy food distribution in clinics
- Joint self-management education in food pantry settings
- Acceptance of new patients for medical management/primary care