



Hosting a Hope Community Fridge: Responsibilities & Requirements

Hope Community Fridges are mutual aid projects that provide free, accessible food and hygiene items to anyone in need, no questions asked. Hosting a fridge is a powerful way to support your neighborhood and fight food insecurity. Here's what you'll need to know and do as a host site:

Location Requirements

- Provide a secure, outdoor-accessible space with a power outlet for the fridge.
- Ensure the fridge is in a publicly accessible, **visible** location that is **safe** to access 24/7 (or set specific open hours if needed).
- Offer protection from extreme weather when possible (a covered porch, patio, or enclosed area is ideal).

Power & Maintenance

- Supply consistent electricity to the fridge.
- Allow access for volunteers to check in, clean, and stock the fridge regularly.
- Keep the area around the fridge tidy, ensuring it does not block foot traffic or create hazards.

Partnership & Communication

- Maintain communication with the Hope Community Fridge organizing team.
- Notify us promptly of any issues (power outages and maintenance needs).
- Allow signage and community info (guidelines, flyers, donation lists) to be posted near the fridge.

Health & Safety

- While the fridge is community-managed, host sites agree to support a basic standard of cleanliness and safety.
- Hosts are not responsible for the contents of the fridge, but collaboration is encouraged to ensure a respectful and responsible space.

FAQ:

Q: What about pests, spoiled items, or trash overflow?

A: The Wellness Check-in Team perform daily check-ins to maintain the health of the community fridge. We routinely clean and remove items that do not fit within the accepted donation guidelines and check for pests.

Q: How do you keep the fridges safe for use outside and protected from the weather?

A: We use UF wiring and outdoor outlets and have professional electricians available.

Q: What about code enforcement and zoning?

A: Community Fridges are not regulated by any policy or city code. We hold ourselves to the same standards as commercial kitchen regulations by the health department. Since the community fridges are in an intentional space and are maintained, they are not considered abandoned equipment.

Q: What if someone gets hurt?

A: We can remove litter and maintain the pantry, but this care should also be done by the property owner.

Q: What if someone gets sick from food from the community fridge. Am I liable?

A: The Good Samaritan Food Donation Act protects food donors against liability, when the donation happens through a nonprofit like B4CK.

Liability Myths: [🌐 Liability_guide.pdf](#)

Legal Questions: <https://chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Fridge-QA-FINAL.pdf>