

Food Justice

What is it?

Food for all

Domestic violence shelters must care about food justice in order to wholly meet the individualized needs of survivors, using food as another opportunity in supporting survivor agency, voice, and choice.

Why is it important?

Equity and access for health

Everyone has an inherent right to access healthy, fresh food. Access is a mixture between location, affordability, and cultural appropriateness.

Is this required?

Yes!

Professional Standards #14: Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies will address diverse needs of the community served, providing specialized advocacy programs and population-specific interventions.

Meeting the needs of survivors' diverse customs, traditions, cultures, economic disparities, and religions through food access honors these differences and promotes individual and family well-being.

How do we make it happen?

Ask and offer

Shelter residents have a right to on-the-spot access to healthy food. Consider the short term and intermediate term needs of families by developing a plan to purchase, or otherwise acquire, perishable items on a recurring basis, as not all families have resources to purchase these items. Consider dietary needs, types of food products (ex. Halal meat), and kitchen supplies (specific pans, rice makers, etc.) needed to prepare their meals. It is ideal if shelters already have some of these items present within their food pantry.