

Elder Brown Bag Program

This program is a monthly supplemental food resource for elders and adults with disabilities in the Merrimack Valley.

This program is a collaboration between the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley and North Shore and a variety of community organizations providing supplemental food assistance for elders and adults with disabilities who may run low on grocery/food money after their monthly income sources are depleted. The program is hosted by the following community organizations: Pentucket Lake Elementary School, Lawrence Council On Aging and Tewksbury Council on Aging. The Elder Brown Bag Program does not compete with other food pantries. It is designed to complement and enhance the work of food pantries.

Each month volunteers gather and fill over 3,000 bags containing items such as dry pasta, cereal, bread, canned vegetables, canned fruits, shelf-stable milk, peanut butter, tuna, cheese, meat or fresh produce. The average bag weighs 15-20 pounds.

Eligibility

To qualify for the program:

- You must be 60 years of age or older or an adult with a disability living independently in elderly disabled housing.
- You must be receiving one or more of the following: Medicaid, SSI, Veteran's Aid, Food Stamps, Fuel Assistance.
- Your gross household income is at or below: \$23,107 for a single person or \$31,284 for a couple.

Enrollment

To apply for the Elder Brown Bag Program, you must fill out an application. Applications can be found at all Councils on Aging (senior centers), as well as public and private housing offices. You may also call Elder Services and request an application. When your application is complete, return it to Elder Services for review.

Pick Up

Five times monthly GBFB sends a delivery truck packed with food, free of cost, to the Merrimack Valley. The food is delivered to our host sites for packing and distribution. Depending on your location, you may pick up or have a group delivery.

More Information

For more information about the Brown Bag Program, call our Age Information Department at 1-800-892-0890.

