

# Restarting a Choice Pantry

Choice-style pantries bring dignity to the shopping experience. Most clients prefer being able to shop for the unique needs of their household. Here are tips to (re)start choice during COVID.



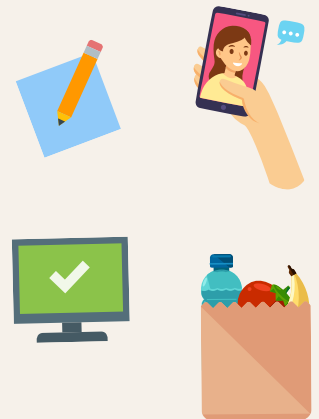
## WHY CHOICE?

- Increases the dignity of the shopping experience
- Accounts for dietary needs, food preferences, and items a household simply does not want or need
- Reduces stigma
- Is person-centered
- Breaks down barriers between giver and receiver
- Builds community
- Reduces food waste



## WAYS TO OFFER CHOICE DURING COVID-19

- **Resume full-choice, in-pantry shopping just like before the pandemic!** Use masks and social-distancing while inside. Open doors and windows when possible. Limit number of clients and volunteers in shared indoor space. No need to disinfect surfaces between shoppers.
- **Clients pre-order online or via phone with curbside pick-up.** Online inventory lists through *Formsite* or *Google Forms* help clients view choices and indicate what they want ahead of time. Paper forms with inventory choices can be offered to clients upon arrival. Be sure to offer phone ordering in addition to (and at the same time as) online ordering for those without access to internet.
- **Offer partial choice:** Pre-pack non-perishables, and offer clients a choice of produce, meat and dairy using inventory lists, product displays or carts.



## GETTING STARTED

- Remember why we do this work
- Take one step to offer more choice to your clients
- Offer clients their choice of produce!
- **Check in with your clients:** What foods do they like? What foods do they wish you offered? What other services and supports do they need help with? Are they feeling ready to shop in the pantry, or do they prefer curbside pick-up and low-contact shopping?
- **Reconfigure space and layout:** Think about shelving, displays and pantry flow.
- **Talk to Food Gatherers.** We can help! Contact your account manager or email [cfp@foodgatherers.org](mailto:cfp@foodgatherers.org)



VENNGAGE

