



Recognized Charitable Food Service Provider Program

Thank you for helping our community to meet the needs of homeless individuals. As you may know, the City of Houston is attempting to provide coordination of operations that serve homeless individuals through the voluntary Recognized Charitable Food Service Provider Program. The program is jointly coordinated by the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County and the Houston Department of Health and Human Services.

The goals of the program are to improve the quality, quantity and availability of food for those that may not have the resources to provide meals for themselves. The program is designed to coordinate volunteer efforts so that the needed amount of food is available at known serving locations.

Highlights of the program:

- **Voluntary:** The Recognized Charitable Food Service program is a *voluntary process* of coordination and training for individuals and organizations that serve food to the homeless at an outdoor location not owned, leased or controlled by the individual or organization providing the food.
- **Training:** Two-hour food safety training classes are offered by the Houston Department of Health and Human Services *free of charge to food providers*.
- **Property owner consent:** *Prior to serving food to homeless individuals, advance written consent of the public or private property owner or other individual with lawful control of the property must be obtained.*
- **Coordination:** Days, times and serving locations will be coordinated to maximize benefit to all.
- **Registration:** Program information, listing of food safety classes and the participation form are available at <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/homeless.html> or by calling 832-393-5100.

This is a voluntary coordination program, not a regulatory process. The Houston Department of Health and Human Services and the Coalition for the Homeless welcome your input and participation in the Charitable Food Service Provider Program.