



Feed Ontario Membership - FAQ

What are the fees associated with being a Feed Ontario member? How is my membership fee determined?

Feed Ontario's annual membership fees operate on a sliding scale that is determined by the average number of unique individuals your organization serves each month, also known as your Hunger Count. Your membership renews annually and new members pay a prorated amount dependent on when their application is approved by the board of directors.

Can any food bank join Feed Ontario?

Unfortunately, no. Feed Ontario member food banks do need to fit certain membership requirements to join the provincial network, including organizational capacity, geographic, and service considerations. Please see Operating Policies and Standards of Operations for all membership requirements and expectations.

What are the requirements of Feed Ontario membership?

Prospective members can learn more about Feed Ontario membership requirements by reading the Standards of Operation, Operating Policy 2: Distribution, Operating Policy 3: Food Bank Clients, Operating Policy 4: Membership, and Food Bank's Canada's Ethical Food Banking Code. Direct members are required to abide by these policies and (re)affirm that they will meet these standards on an annual basis.

Why does Feed Ontario have so many membership requirements?

Membership requirements help to ensure that food banks are accountable to provincial and national best practices, standards, and legislation. This helps to support service standards across the network and collaboration and efficiency across the provincial food banking network.

I read in your Membership Requirements that there is only one Feed Ontario member allowed per geographical region. There's already a Feed Ontario member here. Can I still apply?

No. To optimize efficiency and resources, Feed Ontario operates as a hub and spoke model of distribution. As a result, only one direct member is appointed per geographic boundary. Depending on the size of the community, some direct members serve a network of smaller-sized community agencies in their area, known as affiliates. Please connect with Feed Ontario or your local Feed Ontario member to learn more.

I really want to be a member of the province's food bank network. Is there another way I can take part?

As noted in the question above, there may be opportunity to join Feed Ontario as an affiliate. Affiliates are linked to the network through a Feed Ontario direct member.

We encourage you to speak directly to the Feed Ontario member in your area to discover whether they have any partnership opportunities available.

I asked the Feed Ontario member food bank in my area if I could join them as an affiliate and they said no. Can you make them accept me as a member?

Becoming an affiliate is at the discretion of Feed Ontario Direct Members, not Feed Ontario. Community needs, agency structure, and capacity can vary significantly across the province. It is up to the direct member food bank to determine its own capacity to support affiliates in the area and any other service considerations in the community.

You mention Means Testing in your requirements. What is Means Testing? How do I know if I'm Means Testing at our food bank?

Means testing is a method used to determine eligibility for service based on an individual's or household's financial means or income. Service cannot be denied to an individual based on their income level. To learn more about means testing you can refer to Feed Ontario's FAQ document.

Link2Feed is mentioned in the membership requirements. What is Link2Feed? Is it an additional cost?

Link2Feed is an award-winning client intake system that is used across the provincial and national food bank network to track food bank usage and trends in real-time. The ongoing use of Link2Feed is a mandatory requirement of Feed Ontario membership and plays an essential role in provincial and national program development, product allocations, research, and advocacy work.

There is start up fee of \$499 charged by Link2Feed. Ongoing system fees are included within your annual Feed Ontario membership Fee.

To learn more about Link2Feed you can [click here](#) to visit their website.

What are the benefits of Feed Ontario membership?

Feed Ontario membership benefits fall under our three core pillars, Feed ON, Feed Possibility, and Feed Change.

Fresh and dry staple food programs, advocacy initiatives, training, and grant opportunities are just some of the great perks provided to our members.

For more information on the benefits available to the Feed Ontario network, view the [Feed Ontario Member Benefits PDF](#) attached.

Can I opt out of Feed Ontario Membership and join Food Banks Canada?

No. Only food banks that are members of their provincial association (like Feed Ontario) are members of Food Banks Canada. In becoming a member of Feed Ontario your organization will automatically become a member of the national, Food Banks Canada network.



Sign me up! How can I become a member of Feed Ontario.

There is an application process to becoming a member of Feed Ontario. Please contact Network Services – networkservices@feedontario.ca for a copy of the application and to learn more about the application process.