



Community Cooks envisions communities of neighbors helping neighbors by sharing food and nourishment and, in doing so, creating a more caring and compassionate world.

## Who We Are: Our Mission and Purpose

**Community Cooks partners with existing front line, human service agencies in the Greater Boston area to provide home-cooked meals for the vulnerable populations they serve.** Community Cooks generates these meals by mobilizing individuals, businesses, and civic, educational, and faith-based groups in the community to volunteer their time and cooking skills. We focus on supporting organizations and programs that, due to funding restrictions or lack of facilities and/or resources, struggle to provide food for those they serve.

**In contributing nutritious and much-needed meals, Community Cooks aims to:**

- support agencies and service programs in their work with under-served populations
- feed our neighbors who might otherwise go without
- strengthen our community by connecting volunteers to those most in need

## Who We Serve

**Vulnerable neighbors at our partner agencies whose services include:**

- shelter and support for survivors of domestic violence
- after-school programs
- addiction recovery programs
- residential and day programs for low-income seniors
- shelter, housing and support for unhoused community members

***The purpose of our partnership is to feed your clients, supplement your meal budget, and remove the burden of food provision from your staff. Meals made by Community Cooks volunteers support the work of partner agencies by providing sustenance for hungry clients and creating a welcoming, caring atmosphere.***

## Our Numbers

**650+ VOLUNTEERS**

delivering home-cooked meals to

**37+ COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCIES**

that serve

**1,600+ VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS EVERY MONTH**



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Visit Us:

communitycooks.org



## **Becoming a Community Cooks Partner Agency**

*Please note: CC is currently operating with a waitlist of 10+ partner programs; if your program is vetted and is a match for CC we will reach out to you.*

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### **Who Can Be a CC Partner Agency?**

**In order to receive meals from Community Cooks, your organization must be:**

- a registered nonprofit, 501(c)3, human-service agency
  - an agency whose mission is something other than providing food
  - an agency with no budget - or extremely limited budget - for food
  - an agency with extremely limited resources (volunteers/staff) to provide food for clients on a regular basis
  - able to stay in touch with CC staff via email and phone on a monthly basis
  - located in Greater Boston (current partners are located in Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Newton, Somerville, and Waltham).
  - able to store/reheat/receive/distribute hot meals or bagged lunches
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### **How Does the CC Partnership Work**

**Our partner agencies tell us what they need, CC does the rest!**

Partner agency staff members are on the front lines. They communicate the needs of their program participants, drop-off protocols, etc. to the CC staff.

- CC's small but mighty staff respond to your agency's needs, taking feedback and recruiting teams of volunteers to provide meals
- CC recruits and manages teams of volunteers that will cook and deliver meals to the partner agencies. Partner agencies have no burden to recruit or manage volunteers and only need to communicate with CC staff
- All partnerships start off with one monthly meal and all meals are home-cooked by CC volunteers
- CC staff works with agency staff to tailor the menu to the needs of the program and clients. Allergies, dietary restrictions, and special requests or needs are all taken into consideration
- If your program has a need for more frequent meals, we can serve you up to a maximum of four times a month (Please note: this is dependent on CC's volunteer capacity at the time, if we can't provide more than one monthly meal we will add you to our waitlist for more meals)



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## What Does a Partnership with CC Entail?

Front line human service agencies are often stretched thin and CC strives to keep things easy for their partner agencies. However, there is some commitment necessary to maintain a healthy partnership.

- We work with a main program contact and have a backup contact at each program to reach out to in case of illness or transitions
- You reach out to us with any changes to the program like a new allergy or an increase in diners
- We send you the upcoming session dates three times a year in January, May, and September. Dates are scheduled 4 months at a time (unless you run on an academic or summer schedule, the sessions may vary)
- We copy you on 'week-before meal' reminders to our volunteers. **You do not need to reply**, they are simply to keep you in the loop and make sure you have the meal date on your calendar
- We reach out to you a few times a year to check in about any changes or feedback. These check-ins happen either on the phone, on zoom, or at an in-person meeting. Occasionally we will also check in for briefer updates via email
- CC conducts an in-person site visit every 1-3 years. We ask that all of our program contacts attend these meetings and find it especially helpful when Executive Directors are able to be present as well
- We periodically ask you to provide testimonials/quotes/photos of the meal and of our partnership
- **CC Staff are the liaisons between the staff at partner programs and the volunteer cooks.** We relay all information about the meal needs to our 650+ volunteers so that they are not in direct contact with you. Please do not reach out to our volunteer cooks. If you have any questions or issues please reach out to [meals@ccooks.org](mailto:meals@ccooks.org) and CC staff will get back to you