

Lawrence Community Fridge

Mission Statement and Community Agreements

The Lawrence Community Fridge is a volunteer-run mutual aid project which offers space for the community to share food with one another. We believe that everyone deserves access to fresh, nutritious food regardless of income, time, immigration status, or other barriers that exist within capitalist environments and the non-profit industrial complex. We know that scarcity of food in our community is a lie, and will do what we can to redistribute items that might otherwise go to waste.

We expect everyone who participates in caring for our fridge to respect our mission as outlined above, as well as a few other key elements:

1. Participation in the Lawrence Community Fridge's efforts is done through in-kind donations and volunteer activities, without the expectation of compensation.
 - a. Compensation does not necessarily mean the exchange of money or goods; we ask that orgs that donate to us or participate in other ways be intentional about how they present their affiliation with us; we are not a charity or service provider, and believe it is important to examine the language and customs typically associated with food relief programs.

To be more explicit, donations to the fridge can not be used for tax benefit of any kind and our name should not appear on another organization's request for donations or grants. Politicians should not use photos of the fridge on campaign materials or in social media connected to their campaigns.

- Participation in the Lawrence Community Fridge does not grant any person or organization authority over the people who use the fridge; no limits or restrictions should be placed on any individual utilizing the community fridge.

The community fridge is not a charity, it is not a service provider, it is not a politician.

2. The Lawrence Community Fridge is organized by a collective of volunteers which is autonomous and not connected to any formal non-profit organization or hierarchy. Decisions about the fridge are made by consensus among core organizing volunteers.
 - a. The core organizers participate as individuals, and not on behalf of any other organization or company. Their work with the fridge is voluntary and is not to be combined with- or compensated by- any other position as an employee, or position in city or state government. Individuals' affiliations with additional organizations do not extend to the Community Fridge unless discussed and agreed upon by the organizers.

This is a living document. It represents the baseline principles this group has agreed to, and should be regularly re-evaluated in regards to shifts or growth within the group.