

Community Events: Food Booths

What is a Community Event?

A Community Event is a state or county fair, city festival, circus, or other public gathering of a civic, educational, or public nature.

Do I need a permit to sell food?

Yes! A temporary Public Health Permit is needed to sell or give away food at a Community Event.

Does my church or club event need a Health Permit?

No, if the event is only open to members and guests, and takes place for less than 3 days in a 90 day period it does not need a Public Health Permit. If the event is open to the public, advertized, or lasts longer than 3 days in a 90 day period a permit is required.

How do I get a Health Permit?

The sponsor or organizer of an event should submit an application and pay fees at least 30 days prior to the event. After the sponsor permit is approved food booth operators may submit booth applications and pay fees.

What are the fees/do nonprofit organizations have to pay?

Contact your local Environmental Health office or (626) 430-5200 for fee information. Depending on the event, charitable organizations and certain disabled veterans may be eligible to have their fees waived.

What are the requirements for constructing a food booth?

Different types of food booths have different construction requirements. For example, a food preparation booth must:

- Be fully enclosed with 4 walls and a roof.
- Have pass through windows for customer service (no bigger than 216 square inches).
- Have washable floors (grass floors are not acceptable).
- Locate barbecues next to the booth away from the public.
- Have a handwashing facility with water of a least 100°F and single service soap, paper towels, and trash container.
- Have a three-compartment warewashing sink with hot (120°F) and cold water (up to 4 booths may "share" a warewashing sink).

Contact your local Environmental health office for other requirements.



Types of Booths:

Food Demonstrator: Offers food without charge for promoting food products or equipment. For example offering cut fruit to promote a slicer.

Food Preparation: Sell non-prepackaged food. For example ribs, hamburgers, kettle corn or fresh squeezed lemonade.

Prepackaged Food: Sell or give away prepackaged food. For example prepackaged candy or bottled water.

Prepackaged Food with Samples: Sell only prepackaged food and offer only samples without charge. For example offering samples of cookies to promote sales of prepackaged cookies.

Food Carts

Food carts and vehicles that have a valid Public Health Permit do not need to get a separate health permit to take part in a Community Event.