

# STARTING A

## *Good Food Business in Your Neighborhood*



Looking for opportunities to start your own ***small mobile food business?*** The City of Fort Worth has changed two policies to help you do just that! With relatively ***low start-up costs,*** launching a produce cart or mobile food market is a great way to bring fresh produce directly to neighborhoods. This guide will give you the facts on what's allowed and where to find additional resources to ***get your fresh and healthy business started!***

## PRODUCE CART

The new policy allows:

- Produce carts that offer **whole, uncut produce** as a retail product in residential neighborhoods
- Produce carts may be up to 4'x3'x6' in size
- Sales can be made from residential sidewalks and from property used for nonresidential purposes with permission from the property owner
- Operation between 7 am and sunset in residential neighborhoods
- Permit fee is reduced by half if 75% or more of goods are whole, uncut produce.



## MOBILE FOOD MARKET

The new policy allows:

- Sales from a truck, bus or other vehicle of fresh fruits and vegetables along with other food items
- Sales can be made:
  - As a transient vendor stopping for up to 60 minutes
  - In residential neighborhoods on private property with permission from the property owner and a valid Vendor Certificate of Occupancy (VCO)
  - From nonresidential lots with permission from the property owner with a valid VCO
  - From a vacant lot in nonresidential districts with a valid VCO
- No health permit is required if selling only **whole, uncut produce** as retail product

# RESOURCES

Starting a new business and steering it toward success can be daunting. Here are a few organizations that can help:

## **CITY OF FORT WORTH CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT. CONSUMER HEALTH DIVISION**

Provides guidance and permitting for food businesses and mobile food vendors. [fortworthtexas.gov/health/](https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/health/) or [817-392-7255](tel:817-392-7255)

## **FORT WORTH BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER**

Provides business plan assistance, workshops, loan assistance. [fwbac.com](https://www.fwbac.com) or [817-392-2622](tel:817-392-2622)

## **SCORE FORT WORTH**

Provides expert volunteer mentors, free workshops and resources. [fortworth.score.org](https://www.fortworth.score.org) or [817-871-6002](tel:817-871-6002)

## **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Provides resources and support to help you plan, launch, and manage your business. [sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov) or [1-800-827-5722](tel:1-800-827-5722)

## **TCFPC COMMUNITY GARDENS & URBAN AG WORKING GROUP**

Provides support and expertise for garden and agriculture initiatives. [tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/working-groups.html](https://www.tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/working-groups.html)

## **CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

Local business associations dedicated to supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs as well as advocacy, talent development and more.

Fort Worth — [fortworthchamber.com](https://www.fortworthchamber.com) or [817-336-2491](tel:817-336-2491)

Fort Worth Hispanic — [fwhcc.org](https://www.fwhcc.org) or [817-625-5411](tel:817-625-5411)

Fort Worth Metropolitan Black — [fwmbcc.org](https://www.fwmbcc.org) or [817-871-6538](tel:817-871-6538)



For additional details and information not featured here, visit <http://bit.ly/GoodFoodBusiness>



This material was developed by the *Tarrant County Food Policy Council* and *Blue Zones Project Fort Worth*.

For more information on these organizations and their efforts to support good food in our region, please visit [tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org](http://tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org) and [livelongfortworth.com](http://livelongfortworth.com).