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!
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.

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
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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/ or 817-392-7255

FORT WORTH BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER
Provides business plan assistance, workshops, loan assistance. fwbac.com or 817-392-2622

SCORE FORT WORTH
Provides expert volunteer mentors, free workshops and resources. fortworth.score.org or 817-871-6002

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Provides resources and support to help you plan, launch, and manage your business. sba.gov or 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

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 or 817-336-2491
Fort Worth Hispanic — fwhcc.org or 817-625-5411
Fort Worth Metropolitan Black — fwmbcc.org or 817-871-6538

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).