



York County Community Kitchen

A project of York County Shelter Programs, Inc.

Mission: *To foster entrepreneurship and asset development for low-to-moderate-income residents of York County as a means of building their economic viability.*

Partners: *The facility will be owned and operated by York County Shelter Programs, a member of a statewide coalition of shared-use kitchens.*

Contact Information:

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Target Opening Date: *The Alfred Kitchen is currently serving as the York County Shelter's Kitchen Project while the Bakery/Shared Use Kitchen in Saco will be in operation by the Fall. Whenever required renovation and licensure have happened, it is anticipated that the facility can begin modest operations. Funding is being sought for needed personnel. Inquiries from producers for use of the community kitchen continue.*

Facility Uses:

- a. *To function as a community kitchen so creative people with an idea for a food product they want to produce in large quantities can share the use of it, have access to a licensed kitchen and commercial equipment, in order to cost-effectively 'incubate' their small business.*
- b. *To provide training and support to food producers in developing and implementing a successful business plan, budgeting, packaging and marketing their products.*
- c. *To house a small job training program for individuals who have become homeless to train them in various aspects of the growing food production, packaging and marketing industry, and to thereby help them become job-ready once again.*
- d. *To operate as a retail business and market outlet for the farmers and the food producers, as well as the bakery and organic farm that help support the operation of the York County Shelter Programs that provide emergency shelter, support services, transitional and permanent housing to families and individuals who become homeless in York County. The retail component of the facility will also focus on increasing access to fresh foods and healthy food products by food stamp recipients through use of EBT terminals.*
- e. *To provide a cold and dry storage facility and packaging equipment for small York County farmers so they can expand their markets, and their economic viability.*

Potential Users and Recipients: *Specialty food producers, small farmers, food stamp recipients, individuals who have become homeless in York County, local and tourist consumers.*