



Community Forklift is a nonprofit reuse center for home improvement supplies. We accept donations of surplus and salvaged building materials, fixtures, and furnishings, and then make them available at low cost. We also offer public education and free workshops around reuse, green living, and home repair.

Our thrift store is open to the public, so anyone can shop at Community Forklift's large warehouse. We are open seven days a week from 9 am – 6 pm, and open an extra hour until 7 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. All donation drop-offs and vehicle loading must be finished by a half hour before close on any given day.

In addition to our store where anyone can purchase materials, Community Forklift operates the **Home Essentials Program**. This program donates a portion of our inventory for free to low-income households in need of building materials or home furnishings. Clients are accepted in a number of ways:

- Household income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, [linked here](#).
- The household receives certain types of public assistance (SNAP, housing vouchers, etc.)
- The household is assigned a caseworker who can verify their need.
- The household is referred to us from a similar organization or community leader.

In each case, we need some form of verification: a recent annual tax filing, EBT card, direct communication with a caseworker, photos or a letter from a community leader who can attest to the household's need, etc. For privacy and security reasons, we **do not** accept any document scans sent to us electronically; we prefer to review verification in person or to have a phone call with a caseworker to confirm client status.

[Our online application](#) **must** be filled out for us to move forward, but either caseworkers or the applicants themselves are welcome to complete it. Since we are primarily a nonprofit thrift store, we do not have the resources or staff that a social services agency would have to dedicate to this type of program. It may take up to several weeks to process the form and get back in touch with the applicant or caseworker after submission. If approved, the client will be scheduled for an appointment. During that time our staff will check verification, review our policies with the client, and a specific grant of materials or store credit will be issued.

Please see our online application for a list of the types of items we are typically able to donate, but this list is also not all-inclusive. Some commonly requested items that we **do not carry** include mattresses, beds, couches, loveseats, linens, small electronics, TVs, apartment-sized or portable washers and dryers, and vacuums.

Please note that **we are unable to make deliveries, installations, or repairs**. Although we can fulfill some requests quickly, we have long waiting lists for the appliance requests in particular. Applications to our Home Essentials Program have skyrocketed, but the funding and number of appliances available has remained the same. We are trying to reach out to property managers and stores to solicit more donations, but unfortunately right now we are not receiving enough to meet demand, meaning some applicants may wait weeks or months to get what they need. (If you have any ideas or contacts to help us reach potential donors, please let us know!) Due to the current situation, **we cannot donate more than two appliances per household**.

Another thing to keep in mind is that we receive our entire inventory through donations, which means we cannot determine how long the wait might take. For example, we may not get any gas stoves for several months, but then we might get a truckload of them all at once. We do set aside and distribute appliances for our Home Essentials Program as soon as they become available—the timing can just be unpredictable.

That being said, our primary operation is a thrift shop. While a portion of our inventory is given out through Home Essentials, we are likely to have something available for purchase on our sales floor more quickly than for donation. Prices on many basic large appliances start at \$75 - \$125, so your client may decide to purchase an appliance if they are in urgent need and cannot wait to be served by the program.

Please contact our Community Services Coordinator at (301) 832-0515 should you have any questions. Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with you!