



## Environmental Health Division • Public Information

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • <http://www.ventura.org/rma/envhealth>  
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# “I WOULD LIKE TO SELL OR GIVE AWAY FOOD OR DRINKS AT AN EVENT... DO I NEED A PERMIT?”

### Are you an Event Organizer or a Food Vendor?

An “**Event Organizer**” is a person or organization that is responsible for the coordination, sponsorship or arrangement of a community event.

A “**Food Vendor**” is any person or organization that will offer food or beverages to the public at a community event.

A “**Community Event**” is defined as an event that is civic, political, public, or educational in nature. It includes: state and county fairs, city festivals, circuses and other public gathering events.

A grand opening, a store give-away event, or any other event that is designed to increase, celebrate, or promote a business is **not** a Community Event.



#### EVENT ORGANIZER

Is the event open to the general public?  
Is it a Community Event?

#### FOOD VENDOR

Will you be operating a permitted vehicle  
or a temporary booth?

▼  
**YES**

If it is advertised, held in a public place, or the general public is invited to attend AND meets the definition of Community Event, then the event is regulated and requires a permit.

If it does not meet the definition of “Community Event”, then the event cannot be permitted.

▼  
**NO**

If it is an event meant only for members of an organization and their invited guests, such as a Bar Mitzvah, wedding, birthday party, etc., AND it is NOT open to the general public and has NOT been advertised in any way (radio, signs, TV, newspaper) then the event is not regulated by EHD.

▼  
**Mobile Food Facility (MFF)**

A cart or vehicle that possesses a current annual health permit issued by Ventura County Environmental Health. Temporary Food Facility application is not required.

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**Temporary Food Facility (TFF)**

A “food booth” that sells or gives away food or drinks from a temporary structure or a non-permitted facility such as a church, school, or park kitchen OR a vehicle not permitted in this county. Submit a Temporary Food Facility application.