



Thank you for your interest in hosting a clothing drive for Second Chances.
We are happy to work with you to make your clothing drive a success.

Please take a look at the tips and information below, and contact us by submitting the “Get Started” form on our website when you’re ready, or, if you have questions, email us at clothingdrives@secondchances.org.

Note: We have very limited ability to pick up from clothing drives – please get in touch before you begin your drive if you are interested in a pick-up.

Here are some things to consider as you plan your clothing drive:

- 1. Timeframe:** How long will you collect clothing and what dates/times work best? We suggest a two-week collection and giving people about a week’s notice before the beginning of your collection period and a reminder five days before the end.
- 2. Drop-off location and storage for donations:** Where will people leave their donations? Do you have secure or private storage where clothing will not be in the way of your regular business (like a closet or empty office)?
- 3. What to collect:** Our clients need the full range of work wear and everyday clothing, so we prefer general clothing drives where participants donate all kinds of clothing, shoes, and accessories they no longer need. Our most pressing needs are generally men’s clothing, men’s and women’s shoes of all types, and larger sizes of women’s clothing. We are able to store, recycle, and even sell (wholesale) some of what we cannot use to fund our operations. We do not accept donations of food, toiletries, household items (with the exception of textiles like sheets, table linens, curtains, and towels), furniture, etc.
- 4. Contact person:** Who will be the on-site person for internal questions? Who will be the contact for pick-up or drop-off arrangements when the clothing drive is over? Second Chances will provide a contact for any questions participants have about donations and clothing.

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5. Public vs. private: Will your clothing drive be open to people outside your organization or to the public (customers, other community members, tenants in your office building)? If you're hosting a public clothing drive, what hours can people access the location?

6. Fundraising: Would you consider collecting funding for Second Chances during your clothing drive? This doubles the impact of your efforts by supporting our program in addition to providing clothing for the people we serve. You can collect checks or encourage people use our website to make secure online donations.

7. Publicity/marketing: We can create a poster for you, or you can download and customize a poster here: <https://secondchances.org/host/#yes>

And, if you submit the "Get Started" form with the dates, hours (if applicable), drop-off location, contact person, and whether you want the drive to be private or public, we can create a private or public webpage with the details about your clothing drive. If you are opening your clothing drive to the public, we can share the information to our email list and on social media. Sample webpage:

<https://secondchances.org/clothingdrives/sample-clothing-drive-2024/>

8. Pick-up or drop-off: We have very limited ability to pick up from clothing drives, so please get in touch before you start if you think you'll want a pickup. General guidelines are that you must collect at least 350 pounds (that's about 35 medium-sized bags) of clothing, be within 30 minutes of our Cambridge warehouse for us to arrange a pick-up, and be at a business, organization, or large residential development.

If you meet these guidelines, we'll schedule a pick-up a couple of days after the announced end date for the clothing drive to accommodate any last-minute donations. Because we use a contractor for pick-ups, they are generally scheduled on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. or Friday afternoon.

If you do not meet the guidelines, we appreciate you having a volunteer from your organization drop the clothing you collect at any of our donation locations. You can find the nearest one here: <https://secondchances.org/donate-clothing/#where> and we're happy to help guide you to a location that is likely to have enough space for your donations – please email us at clothingdrives@secondchances.org for guidance.

Thank you for supporting the people and communities we serve with free, empowering clothing!