

Using **Oasis Insights** as your neighbor data system comes with many key benefits. First, in using a web-based system, you allow your staff and volunteers a certain degree of ‘portability’ in serving your neighbors. All that is needed is a laptop or tablet with an Oasis-compatible internet browser and a stable Wi-Fi signal. Also, Oasis’s built-in barcoding system will allow your agency to access neighbor cases, record neighbor assistance and reduce errors with speed and efficiency.



To help partner agencies identify what technology items will work best for their needs, we have created this helpful guide.

► COMPUTERS, CHROMEBOOKS & TABLETS



Laptop or PC

If your agency already has access to a laptop or PC with internet capability, there should be no need to purchase a new computer to meet the needs of the Oasis software. Agencies should only acquire a new computer if they need access to Oasis in more locations than where they currently use the system. Other than installing a web browser (Google Chrome is recommended), no other setup is needed.



Chromebooks

Chromebooks are essentially a slimmed-down version of a laptop. While it has less internal storage than a typical computer, it still has the capability to run the Oasis site. These are a good idea if you prefer a larger screen size or have users who work in a static location. They are available at most retailers and on Amazon.



Tablets

Tablets that run the Google Android operating system are another great option. In addition to being inexpensive, they will allow users to work anywhere at your site where there is a stable Wi-Fi connection. While Samsung Galaxy tablets are recommended by the Food Bank, there are other Android tablets on the market at a lower price. One drawback of a tablet is the adjustment to not having a physical keyboard, however, bluetooth keyboards are available.

► TABLET ACCESSORIES



Shock Cases

Because tablets are portable, there is a greater risk of them being dropped and/or damaged. In order to prevent damage, we recommend getting a shock case for your tablet. To ensure tablet portability, we recommend a shock case with a rear sleeve that will help you hold your tablet while serving neighbors (pictured). Shock cases can feature a retractable stand that keeps your tablet upright.

► BARCODE SCANNERS

The Oasis system uses a standard barcode, similar to those found on everyday products. The barcode system allows your agency to link neighbor cases to barcodes on their driver's license or grocery key tags. This allows your agency the ability to access a neighbor's account with just the press of a button. In addition to accessing neighbor accounts, your agency can create customized barcodes that correspond to various types of assistance you offer. By having a listing of your assistance items pre-printed in barcode form, barcodes allow you to access a neighbor and record their assistance without a single keystroke or mouse click!



Wired Barcode Scanners

While most barcode scanners are equipped with Bluetooth capability, if you plan to use a barcode reader near your laptop, PC or Chromebook, it is best to simply use a barcode reader's USB cable and connect it directly to your device. This barcode reader (pictured) comes with a USB cable and a Bluetooth receiver.

Bluetooth Barcode Scanners

If you need a barcode scanner to use with your tablet, there are many types of barcode readers that come with an internal receiver and do not require anything to be plugged into your tablet. Connecting a Bluetooth scanner to a tablet takes less than a minute. Also, they have an internal battery that will stay charged throughout the day as you serve neighbors.

Please keep in mind that while there are many barcode scanners on the market, they do not appear to be available at retail outlets. Your agency will need to order them directly from the manufacturer or through a website like Amazon.



To ease your transition towards implementing Oasis, the Food Bank can work with you to consider what technology will be the best fit for the specific needs of your site.