



Executive Director's Greeting

Greeting

Welcome, Spring! And welcome to our new Membership and Education Manager, Kyla Tucker! Kyla will oversee the production of newsletters, attend regional coalition meetings, and assist with the conference to start. Kyla holds a master's degree in public health from Harvard and has experience with food security issues and training development.

As always, there is a lot happening this spring. We will begin collecting nominations for new representatives/board members in our odd-numbered districts. If you are interested in serving on the coalition's board of directors and working in the following areas, please complete the nomination form on our website. See the article on page 3. We will also soon release our new Senior Nutrition Toolkit, a guide with nutrition information and resources, and host smaller Fresh Results Award presentations in several counties around the state.

We will hold a training later this month on what to expect at your EFAP Spring Biennial Meeting, focusing on the roles and decisions of sub-awardees. On May 14th, we will conduct our third training in a series of four on fundraising and grant writing. Please join us!

Please save the date for the WFC Annual Conference, September 17- 19 in Kennewick, WA, at the Three Rivers Convention Center. Check out the new website for details! Hope you can join us!



Trish Twomey

Trish Twomey
trish@wafoodcoalition.org
206-729-0501

Our Mission: The Washington Food Coalition actively educates and networks with organizations that strive to alleviate hunger throughout Washington

Our Vision: The Washington Food Coalition is the unified voice for a strong emergency food system

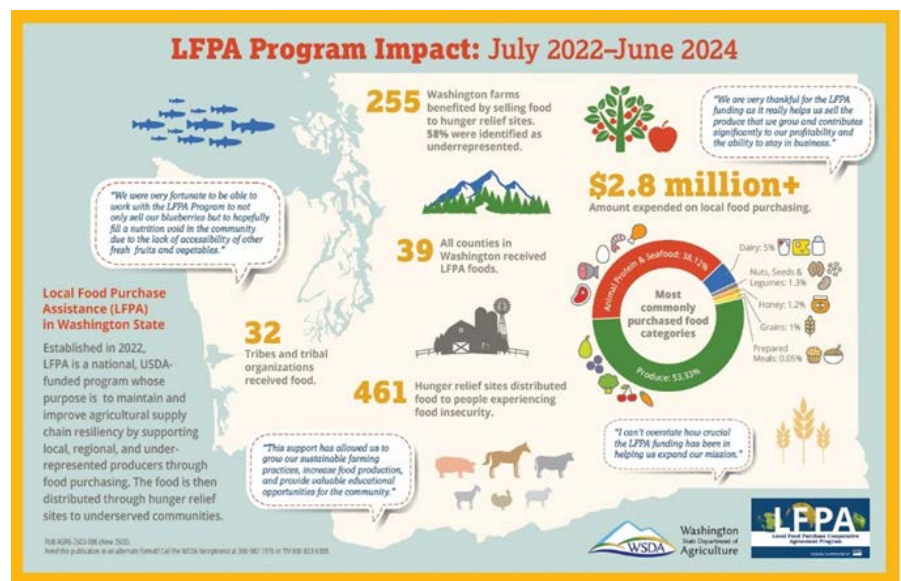
Greetings to hunger relief partners across the State,

WSDA Food Assistance (FA) writes this update knowing that it is reaching you in a time of great uncertainty, as the demand for services continues to grow and the predictability of food and funding resources is low. FA is increasing its efforts to provide you with the most real-time information available, with the understanding that it can change almost on a daily basis. We hope this article helps clarify what is known, our approach to supporting and communicating with you, and what updates you can expect moving forward.

We want to start with some good news! We are pleased to announce that the application window is now open for WSDA FA Resiliency Grants for the upcoming state fiscal year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026). The application is open for 45 days and closes at 11:59 pm PDT on May 22, 2025. We encourage you to visit the Resiliency Grants webpage for grant details including funding priorities, FAQ's, an application guide, and rubric. WSDA FA Resiliency Grant Application Office Hours with FA Resiliency Grants staff are being held from 1:30-2:00 pm on April 18th, May 2nd, and May 16th.

WSDA FA heard loud and clear, given the current uncertainty, the requests for more frequent communication about program and funding updates. To support that effort, WSDA FA has begun using the "What's New?" section of our Food Access webpage to provide the latest program updates. "What's New?" allows FA to provide (publicly) accessible updates to partners and stakeholders. FA will continue to provide direct updates at our General and Lead Agency Check-in Meetings, but encourages you and those in your network to utilize the "What's New?" resource for more frequent updates. At the time of writing this article we have detailed information posted about programs such as LFPA, LFPA Plus, LFPA 25, and TEFAP CCC.

We did want to highlight some updates in LFPA as well. First, we have published an LFPA Program Impact (2022-2024) Infographic (pictured right). We have also posted information on the "What's New?" section named above that provides a recap & update on LFPA, LFPA Plus, and the recently cancelled LFPA 25. Since that update, USDA has granted a No Cost Extension giving many LFPA and LFPA Plus Lead Agencies additional time to utilize those funds through 12/31/25, rather than the previous funding period end date of 6/30/25. This will support WA's emergency food providers and farmers, giving them another growing season to utilize these dynamic funds.



In other funding updates, we wanted to share this message below from WSDA Agency Leadership on the status of state funding for the new biennium (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027).

The Washington State legislative session is well underway, and the Legislature is currently working to reconcile the House and Senate's proposed budgets. The operating budget that they adopt for Governor Ferguson to sign includes the supplemental budget for the current year, which does not affect WSDA's Food Assistance programs, as well as the 2025-2027 biennial budget, which begins in July 2025 and ends in June 2027. The available funding levels for state-appropriated Food Assistance programs at WSDA are uncertain until that budget is adopted and signed by the Governor, which is anticipated in May. WSDA recognizes that communities across the state are impacted by the uncertainty of this critical operating funding, and the difficulty that the legislative timeline puts on organizations' planning; we will continue to provide updates as they are available.

On the federal funding front, there are some pieces known and some still unknown. The CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) budget for FFY25 has seen a reduction in caseload and funding nationwide. This reduction has resulted in a caseload (seniors) loss of 91 and a reduction in federal funding in Washington as well. We are committing state funds to support our CSFP Lead Agencies, making them “whole” and deeply appreciate their efforts in serving at or above their caseload prior to that reduction in an effort to support a potential increase in caseload had it been available.

TEFAP budgets are not yet clear for the current 2025 Federal Fiscal Year and FA continues to monitor the projected volume of food coming to the State through various TEFAP sources such as TEFAP Entitlement, TEFAP Bonus, and TEFAP CCC. Recently there was a substantial cancellation of TEFAP CCC orders that had been placed, however USDA has not officially communicated that the program has been terminated. At the same time, we have been able to place quite a few orders through TEFAP Bonus channels in recent weeks. We continue to monitor TEFAP food volumes, and work diligently to identify additional foundational foods we can bring in to support food pantries and meal programs in Washington State.

We continue to be appreciative of your partnership, continued engagement, and above all – your commitment to providing reliable offerings to communities across the state. We find the stories and impacts you share with our staff invaluable and center this information in our policy and funding discussions. Please reach out to foodassistance@agr.wa.gov if you'd like to confirm scheduled upcoming opportunities to connect with our team beyond the webpages and check-in meetings named above.

In community,

Kim Eads & WSDA Food Assistance Team Members

New News

Letter Carriers Food Drive, May 10th

Each year, letter carriers across the country head out on their routes on the second Saturday in May to collect donations of non-perishable food items to benefit local food pantries. Since launching in 1993, the National Association of Letter Carriers' annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has grown into the nation's largest one-day food drive, helping to fill the shelves of food banks in cities and towns throughout the United States.

.....



Best Practices Manual – Innovations and Solutions

As you may have heard, we are eager to hear from you about your unique or best practices. Does your program offer a distinctive service or a fresh perspective on an established practice? Do you purchase food or cater to a specific cultural or age group? Collaborate with a farmer? Let us know! We would love to include you in the Best Practice Manual! Email Trish at trish@wafoodcoalition.org

.....



WFC Board Representative Elections

Each Spring, the WFC holds elections for new representation for its board of directors. This year, we will be electing seven representatives for our odd-numbered districts and three At-Large positions. Those districts include the following counties:

- District 1 – Ferry, Stevens & Pend Oreille
- District 3 - Grant, Lincoln & Adams
- District 5 – Yakima & Kittitas
- District 7 – Walla Walla, Garfield, Asotin & Columbia
- District 9 - King
- District 11 – Lewis & Thurston
- District 13 – Grays & Pacific



To nominate yourself or others, please complete the nomination form, linked on our website.



WSDA What's New Page

WSDA has created a new page where they can share the latest news on federal cuts or other news coming from the federal government. Check out the page to keep up to date on food access and funding.

WSDA What's New Page -

<https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access>

WFC Annual Conference, September 17th-19th in Kennewick, WA

Join us at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, WA,

in September for the WFC Annual Conference. Our theme is

Planting Seeds for Success - Growing Our Impact.

Hotel room blocks are set; make your reservation today! Registration will open soon. See more information keep an eye on our website,

<https://www.wafoodcoalition.org/annual-conference/>



National
Council of
Nonprofits

National Council of Nonprofits

The National Council of Nonprofits has produced a chart to help nonprofit organizations keep up with executive orders that are directly impacting nonprofits. It also covers which ones are being challenged in court. Additionally, you can also view their regularly updated General FAQs on Executive Actions impacting nonprofits and view the latest webinar covering the Legal landscape and Path Ahead for Nonprofits and Philanthropy. From the Nonprofit Association of Washington newsletter

<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/civCRM/mailing/url?u=241569&qid=16164926>

GIVE BIG

All nonprofit organizations based in or serving Washington State are invited to register for GiveBIG 2025, which raised \$11.5 million for 1,500+ organizations last year.

GiveBIG is May 6-7, with early giving beginning on Tuesday, April 22. The campaign is powered by 501 Commons, a nonprofit that provides expertise and support services to organizations across the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

GiveBIG is a great way to be discovered by new donors, run peer-to-peer campaigns, engage local businesses, and tailor your fundraising strategy with customizable features. By registering, you'll be visible on the platform until next Spring. You can use the platform's features throughout the year, including during Giving Tuesday (December 2) and the year-end giving season.

Once you're onboard, you can access their library of training videos, a campaign plan template, and tools for building an impactful campaign. Got a question? Please reach out to wagives@mightycause.com.

Register for Give BIG! <https://nonprofitwa.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b98650ebcf9f04e6615b76080&id=-96ca160c15&e=a9c158836b>



Washington Food Coalition Board Members

Chair

Sara Osborne

Vice Chair

Jay Kang

Past Chair

Andra Smith

Treasurer

Cecilia Chavez

Secretary

David Bobanick
Harvest Against Hunger

District 1

Stephani Smith
NEW Hunger Coalition

District 2

Rachel Bishop
Upper Valley MEND

District 3

Jose Garza
Othello Food Bank

District 4

Carrie Chase
CAC Pullman

District 5

Cecilia Chavez
Toppenish Community Chest

District 6

VJ Meadows
Tri-Cities Food Bank

District 7

Erik Mora
Blue Mountain Action Council

District 8

Casey Davis
Edmonds Food Bank

District 9

District 10

Angel Swanson
Feeding Feasible Feasts LLC

District 11

District 12

Emily Straw
Clark County Food Bank

District 13

Sandy Harley
Ocean Shores Food Bank

District 14

Andra Smith
Sequim Food Bank

At-Large Members

David Bobanick
Harvest Against Hunger
Dan Gustafson
Retired, World Food Program
Claire Lane
Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Linda Matthews
WSU Pierce County
Sara Osborne
Safeway
David Uhl

