

Twice Weekly COVID-19 Check-In Meetings



Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Schedule

Tuesday's (General) & Friday's (Contractor Focus), 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Today's Focus

COVID-19 WA Emergency Food Box Initiative

Office of the Governor – JT Austin

Washington State Department of Agriculture – Director Derek Sandison

Food Lifeline – Linda Nageotte

Second Harvest – Jason Clark

Northwest Harvest – Thomas Reynolds

Q&A

Questions, Feedback and Clarifications

Next Mtg.

Friday, June 26th 9:00 am – 10:00 am (Contractor Focus)

The Food Security Coordination Team



- Led by JT Austin of the Governor's Office and Director Sandison of WSDA, the Food Security Coordination Team was mobilized on March 16th. We are now 100 days into this effort.
- State agencies are working in together to maximize and monitor food and nutrition program benefits for low-income and newly unemployed people in order to increase food access and reduce demand for food banks.
- Monitored and contributing programs include –
 - SNAP
 - Pandemic SNAP
 - Child Nutrition Programs
 - Senior Nutrition Programs
 - Women, Infant, Children (WIC)
 - Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Programs
 - Food Assistance Programs
- We also coordinate with the State Emergency Operations Center and Unified Command Group to evaluate and support National Guard deployment, as well as other volunteers

WSDA's Response to COVID-19



- Since March, WSDA has stepped in as a lead agency supporting the Governor's office in food security coordination and implementation in light of COVID-19.
- WSDA has taken key steps to support food banks, food pantries and meal programs to address a food security crisis in our state, including –
 - Securing Disaster Relief Account funding from the state in April and CARES funding in May to make critical investments in hunger relief;
 - Enhancing Food Assistance programs with additional EFAP funding, cold storage capacity investments, and pilot programs;
 - Procurement and coordination of additional supplies like sanitizer, gloves and masks;
 - Offsetting reductions in donated food and volunteerism through Emergency Food box contracts with Food Lifeline, Northwest Harvest and Second Harvest.



WA Food Box Challenges/Opportunities

The wholesale market continues to experience widespread disruption, resulting in menu changes.	Trying to purchase largest volumes as possible of most desired items to create more menu stability.
#10 cans are not desirable.	Better to replace a category of product (such as canned veg) when only #10 cans are available.
Pre-packed boxes take up too much storage space, and some would prefer to pack their own boxes.	Flexibility in amended WSDA contract will provide option to ship cased-out menu items vs. pre-packed boxes.

Lasting/Varied COVID-19 Impacts:

- Depending on which phase your community is in, you may have differing needs from want to hear about approaches that may work better for you.
- Volunteer recruitment may continue to be a challenge, impacting agency operations.
- Seniors/high-risk populations may need home delivery/proxy-shoppers until Phase 4.
- Unemployment “boost” expected to expire July 31.

other agencies. / We



Washington Food Box Update

Looking Ahead:

- Service levels vary: Some agencies serving fewer, some the same, some many more.
- Overall, anticipate level of need will continue to grow; peak in December.
- Requesting agency input for workgroup determining next phase of service.
- Weekly email to agency partners with service updates will continue.

Planned return of Agency Express	Re-launch of Order Up	Donation stream recovery planning
Continuation of CFAP Program	TEFAP, TMP, CARES Act TEFAP continue	Shop the Dock available on demand

Share your experiences and plans to prepare for increasing needs for service.



Summer 2020 Food Supply Trends

- COVID-19 has created unprecedented demand and supply chain challenges
 - ü Shipping delays, limited variety of shelf stable goods, increased costs, and unexpected cancellations
- Food Sources
 - ✓ Purchased food supply continues to be fragile and it is difficult to project when it will become more stable. Shortages of shelf-stable and high demand products remain likely
 - ✓ Nationally, there are 4 to 5-week lead times to receive purchased food
 - ✓ The Grocery Rescue program continues to operate in 170+ stores in Eastern Washington, though overall volume is down 10% to 50% depending on the retailer
 - ✓ Growers and packers continue to support hunger-relief through donations of bulk produce, particularly potatoes and apples with other items becoming available as the harvest season begins
 - ✓ The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) contracts have been finalized for the second round of contracts through the end of August. Second Harvest is coordinating or directly handling 17 truckloads of CFAP per week
- Perishables / produce are likely to be most available donated food
 - ✓ In the short-term, carefully coordinating donation timing, cold storage, delivery routes, and pantry needs will be critical to getting food to where it's needed most



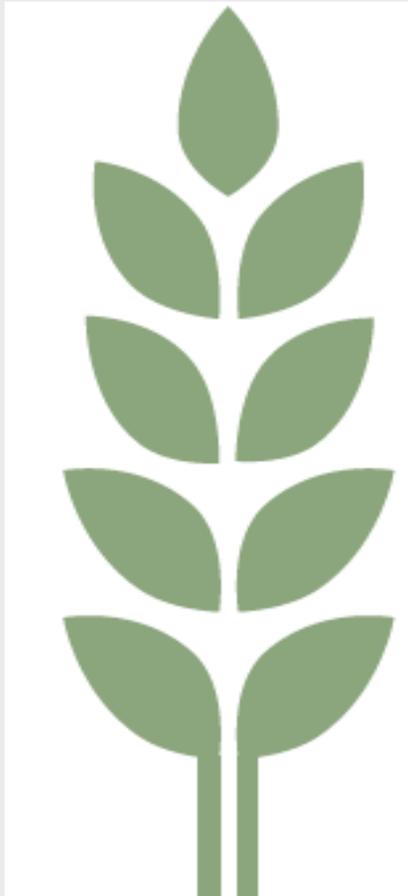
Healthy Food. Every Person. Every Day.



Summer 2020 Strategies to Distribute Emergency Food & Washington Emergency Food Boxes



Healthy Food. Every Person. Every Day.



- Second Harvest Warehouse Will-Call Pickups
 - ü Providing agency partners with on-demand produce, CFAP, fresh and frozen food boxes
- Increasing Delivery Routes
 - ✓ Hiring additional drivers, leasing or renting additional trucks, and increasing frequency of delivery routes to rural and urban partner agencies
- Partnership with the Spokane Food Fighters
 - ✓ Providing home delivery to individuals unable to visit a food bank
- Partnership with At the Core and Spokane Public Schools
 - ✓ Providing community distributions of emergency food boxes at meal distribution sites and housing complexes
- Partnering with Community Sites in Spokane, Benton and Franklin County for Mass Distributions
 - ✓ Direct drive-through community distributions at the convention center
 - ✓ Providing additional fresh and frozen food boxes
- Conducting Direct Drive-Thru and Walk-Up Distributions
 - ✓ Second Harvest Mobile Market Events at various locations as needed
 - ✓ Providing additional fresh and frozen food boxes

Northwest Harvest: What We Are Seeing

- Food insecure population in WA has jumped from 850,000 to now more than 2,000,000
 - Communities of color (particularly Black and Latinx) have been disproportionately affected
- Food banks across the state have seen anywhere from a 30% to 300% increase in demand since the beginning of March
- After initial struggles in food supply chain – opportunities and inventories have now become more readily available
 - However, nothing will be distributed that is a poor fit for households – such as readily available #10 cans
- Outpouring of community support from individual donors, corporate partners, and foundations



Northwest Harvest: What We Are Doing

- Utilizing equity lens for our COVID-19 response work; Focusing on capturing and integrating the voices of disparate and vulnerable communities
 - Tribal communities, immigrant populations, those with disabilities, seniors, children, and those new to the emergency food system
- Executing on our 13-county strategy
- Communicating with partner programs
- Creating broad diversity of menus
- Commissioned report to best foresee hunger and community needs in WA
- Advocating for public policies that maximize support for the most at-risk communities



Partner Feedback & Suggestions



- What are three things that you most appreciated about this strategy?
- What are three things that you least appreciated about this strategy?
- Recognizing that there may be funding and operational limitations that may prevent the integration of all requests and suggests, we still would like your input - what would you want to see next or differently, in August and beyond?



Reflections & Next Steps

