

COVID-19 Emergency Food Initiative Updates



Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Schedule

Every other Tuesday from 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Today's Focus

COVID-19 WA Emergency Food Initiative

Washington State Department of Agriculture – Derek Sandison, Director

Food Lifeline – Linda Nageotte, CEO

Second Harvest – Jason Clark, CEO

Northwest Harvest – Thomas Reynolds, CEO

Q&A

Questions, Feedback and Clarifications

Next Mtg.

10am today WA Food Coalition's Retail Food Code Listening Session

Tuesday, October 6th 9:00 am – 10:00 am

The Food Security Coordination Team



- Led by JT Austin of the Governor's Office and Director Sandison of WSDA, the Food Security Coordination Team mobilized in March and continues to convene monthly.
- **State Objectives –**
 - Maximize low-barrier food access among new and existing food insecure populations
 - Support and sustain operations of established hunger relief organizations in the statewide network
 - Provide operating guidance to maximize safety of hunger relief staff and volunteers
 - Coordinate between State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), FEMA, WSDA, Governor's Office, and all other state and federal nutrition and food assistance programs, as well as among largest NGO food bank organizations for efficiency and clarity
 - Support efforts to bring other food streams (donations) back within the hunger relief network
- **Looking Ahead –**
 - Monitor increased demand for state, federal and community-based food assistance into 2021
 - Continued support of emergency food box and emergency food procurement and distribution
 - Develop a state-funded staffing plan to reduce future reliance on National Guard
 - Begin scenario planning and strategy development for 3 month intervals; gather input from FSCT

WSDA's COVID-19 Food Security Response



Looking Ahead –

- Continued investment in established Food Assistance Programs (EFAP & EFAP Tribal) and FA COVID pilots (AMI, Charlie's Produce)
- Support DOH Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Incentive program to increase SNAP benefits
- Invest in emergency food system capacity as needed
- Sustain partnership with NGOs for pre-packed box and bulk emergency food through December 2020
 - Based on stakeholder feedback, reducing quantity distributed through NGOs from Oct-Dec
- Grow the reserve of emergency food, and include a reserve of pre-packed emergency food boxes
- Support hunger relief staffing plan development for 2021, including subsidized AmeriCorps placements



Counties Served with Emergency Food Boxes

Served directly by Second Harvest (46 agencies/programs)

Spokane County

Whitman County

Benton County

Franklin County

Served through Moses Lake Food Bank (14 agencies / programs)

Grant County

Adams County

Lincoln County

Served through Blue Mountain Action Council (6 agencies / programs)

Walla Walla County

Asotin County

Columbia County

Garfield County

Served through Rural Resources (15 agencies / programs)

Stevens County

Ferry County

Pend Oreille County



Healthy Food. Every Person. Every Day.



Emergency Food Box Program Information



Healthy Food. Every Person. Every Day.

Average weight: 17 lbs.

Average # Meals: 14

“Ideal” Box Menu

Canned Fruit / Juice	Canned Vegetable
Canned Meat	Non-Meat Protein
Canned Soup/Stew/Chili	Mac and Cheese
Cereal / Oatmeal	Nut Butter
Rice	

Ongoing Challenges:

- Supply chain disruptions mean some box products are not available in adequate quantity and food prices are rising.
- Substitutions / alternative menus will be necessary – sometimes with larger pack sizes, similar type product (pasta or skillet meal for Mac and Cheese), etc.

We invite your feedback:

- Please contact us at: wafund@2-harvest.org with any questions or concerns
- Please let us know of other communities or organizations that may need access to food boxes



Planned & Additional Strategies to Distribute Emergency Food & Food Boxes



Healthy Food. Every Person. Every Day.



- Conducting Mobile Market Drive-Through and Walk-Up Distributions
 - ✓ Various locations as needed throughout the region
 - ✓ Providing additional fresh and frozen food boxes
 - ✓ Focusing on providing food access with equity including:
 - ✓ Migrant Education Program - Pasco School District
 - ✓ Hmong Alliance Spokane
 - ✓ Colville Confederated Tribe
 - ✓ Kalispel Tribe
 - ✓ Refugee Connect
 - ✓ Marshallese Community (Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs)
- Partnership with At the Core and Spokane Public Schools
 - ✓ Providing community distributions of emergency food boxes at SPS meal distribution sites, and at housing complexes
 - ✓ Providing additional fresh and frozen food boxes
- Emergency Wildfire Response
 - ✓ Second Harvest Agency Relations team is actively connecting with food bank partners in fire-affected regions to assess needs and respond with support where requested.

90 Day Outlook



Healthy Food. Every Person. Every Day.



- USDA CFAP or Farm to Family Program expected to resume September 28
 - ✓ Remaining flexible as changes to contracting process and contracts will likely affect distribution
 - ✓ Program expected to expire no later than end of October
 - ✓ Second Harvest is monitoring that transition window closely and preparing to ramp up private produce sourcing activities when necessary
- Shifting Sources of Labor
 - ✓ Preparing for National Guard demobilization beginning mid-December
 - ✓ Adding staff to navigate the transition in key program, operations and logistics roles
 - ✓ Continue to engage volunteers where safe and feasible

Looking Forward

October - December

- Our team continues to seek input from agency partners to understand those food & grocery items that will be most helpful to you and the guests you serve. We've heard:
 - Adding more variety among staples: varieties of beans, soups, etc.
 - Additional types of protein beyond chicken/beef, like fish and tofu.
 - Smaller unit sizes are most helpful.
 - Recognition that many clients do not / cannot eat pork.
 - High interest in steady, reliable volumes of fresh produce.
 - Opportunities to access spices and spice mixes.
- Knowing that COVID-19 emergency response funding will decline in coming months, we are working hard to restore donated food streams to pre-COVID levels.
- Beginning November 1, we will return to our traditional 17 county service area, adding back into service Pierce, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties.





Looking Forward

October - December

- **All agencies will be able to order product weekly via Agency Express**
 - Shelf-stable foods you can use to build pre-packed boxes
 - Boxes, PPE
 - Case quantities of a variety of donated foods, including produce, dairy, protein, assorted grocery, and other items you've shared are priority items
 - Order Up items (for purchase) will include protein, hygiene items, seasonal products – please let us know if you don't see what you need!
- **We will continue allocating all varieties of TEFAP. (We are the contractor for King County and redistributor for western Washington.)**
- **Shop the Dock product will be available every day at the Hunger Solution Center**
- **Partnered Grocery Rescue & Fresh Rescue donations are largely returning to pre-COVID levels.** Our Grocery Rescue team is ready to work with you if you aren't seeing donations rebound in your area.





Partner Agency Update

Our team is working to deliver a reliable, steady supply of food and grocery items you need and want.

We want our agency partners to experience:

- Enough volume
- Lots of variety
- Consistency
- High Quality



Partner Agency Update

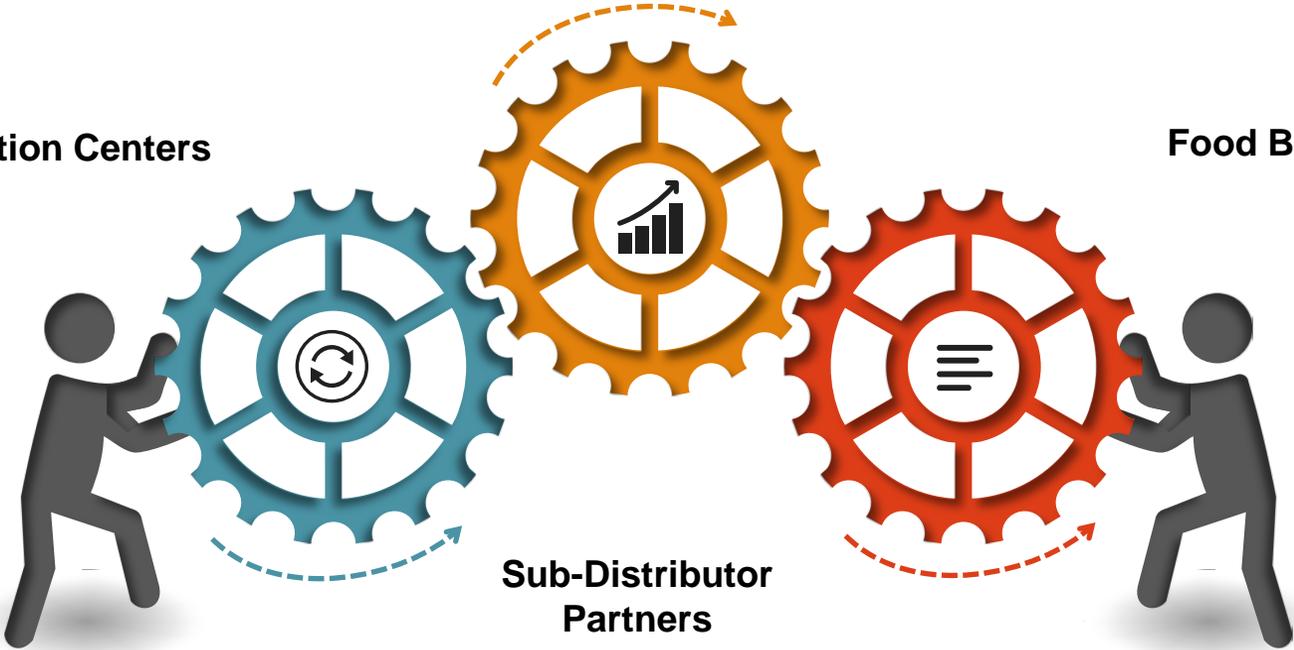
Please continue asking questions, raising concerns and offering your insights.

- We've heard concerns about how the coming cold/inclement weather will impact your ability to serve your community. Ideas so far have included canopies, outdoor heaters, personal carts for shoppers...
- Let's talk about these concerns and plan together - Join our next bi-weekly Partner Agency call on Thursday, September 24th at 3pm.
- Send your thoughts, concerns and questions any time to: Feedback@FoodLifeline.org

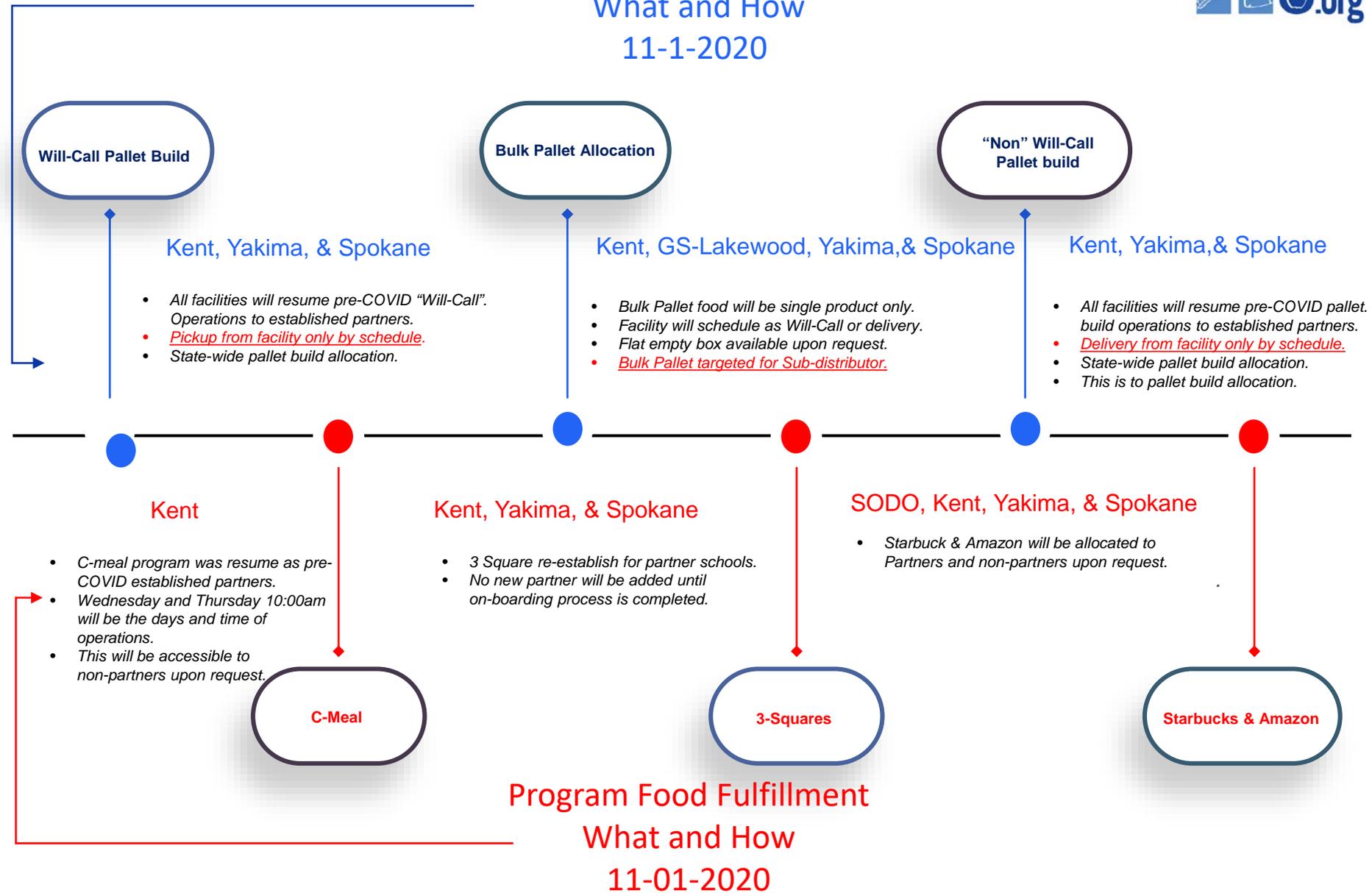


NWH Distribution Centers

Food Bank Partners



Main Food Fulfillment What and How 11-1-2020



 <p>Audience</p>	 <p>Message Type</p>	 <p>Delivery Method</p>	 <p>Schedule</p>	 <p>Message Source</p>
<p>Sub-distributor and Partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners will need to be determined. • Some partners will need more attention. • Leadership Team may want update. 	<p>Information share/food needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share distribution and allocation strategy with sub-distributors and partners. • Determine the “3” food stock need by partners. • Gather data on food need, determine impact and execution. 	<p>Delivery by email and phone calls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact partners and sub-distributors by email and phone call. • Document all contacts. • Create data collection tool “excel”. 	<p>Partners/Sub-distributor contact frequency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact partners once a week check-in. • Sub-distributor bi-weekly check-in. • Document all contacts. 	<p>HRN and Distribution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messaging • Communication • Documentation • Frequency • Allocation and Distribution strategy
<p>WHO?</p>	<p>WHAT?</p>	<p>HOW?</p>	<p>WHEN?</p>	<p>OWNER?</p>

Any

Question



Communication is STILL Key



- While we work to update the Food Security model, we expect sustained high demand for food assistance and benefits throughout the remainder of 2020 and into 2021.
- WSDA will be distributing a short survey in partnership with WSU to develop a monitoring system for 2021 and beyond. Your participation would be greatly appreciated!
- If your agency experiences food, personnel or supply shortages, or a marked increase in demand, we need to know in order to help. If you experience shortages or have additional questions, concerns, suggestions, or feedback, please contact:

1. Your County Lead TEFAP/EFAP Contractor(s)

2. Your WA Emergency Food Box County Lead Agency

Food Lifeline

Northwest Harvest

Second Harvest

3. WSDA Food Assistance & Food Security Response Team

Your FA Regional Rep

Katie Rains

krains@agr.wa.gov

360-688-4549

(Staffing, Supplies, Emergency Food Feedback)

Questions? Comments?

THANK YOU!

**Please stay on the line/site for the WA Food Coalition's
WA Food Code listening session from 10AM-11AM**