Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)
Food Procurement Priority System

This policy applies to organizations using EFAP or EFAP-Tribal funds.

Food Pantries Will Have a Food Procurement System in Place.

Food pantries should have a food procurement system in place which prioritizes donations. If unable to acquire donations, food pantries should keep the following principles in mind:

- The health of the client, and prioritization of nutritious foods
- A good and judicious stewardship of funds
- Client preference and cultural appropriateness
- Support of special dietary programs
- Have a clear decision making process; how and what food is to be procured

Food pantries should attempt to buy food through the following channels when utilizing state funds:

- Nonprofit distributors
- Wholesalers or food brokers
- Discount retailers
- Local retailers & farms

Contractors should:

- Have information on what food resources are available and the process for obtaining product from those resources
- Be responsible for monitoring their food pantries’ compliance
- Include discussion about how its service area food pantries will procure food at the EFAP meeting held with food pantries prior to submitting the biennial application
- Facilitate group purchases if that would be most cost-effective
- Support local nutritional policies and equity practices

WSDA monitors for compliance with this policy. Significant deviation from this policy must be justified. Any food product procured with EFAP funding is intended solely for private consumption by eligible recipients. The sale, trade, exchange or other disposal of these foods for personal gain is strictly prohibited.

For more information on our programs, please visit: agr.wa.gov/services/food-access.