WSDA Food Assistance
General Check-In Meeting
Date: July 19, 2022

Food Assistance Team
COVID-19 Check-In Meetings
Tuesday – July 19, 2022

Schedule:
Tuesday – General Focus Meeting – Once per Month

Updates:
WSDA Focus on Food & We Feed WA & LFPA: Katie Rains & Jessica Hernandez
Washington Food Coalition – Trish Twomey & Bonnie Baker
Harvest Against Hunger – David Bobanick
Advocacy Update – Aaron Czyzewski, Christina Wong, Claire Lane

FA Updates:
Resiliency Grants Round 2 Update (Lindsey); Leah’s Pantry Training
Opportunity & Cook WA (Patrick); TEFAP R&R and LFPA Grants Update; August
Focus TEFAP & Next Biennium; Questions? Other things on your mind?

Next Meetings:
TODAY: July 19, 10:00 am – FAAC Meeting Zoom Meeting
Friday: August 5, 9:00 am – Contractor Check-In Meeting
Tuesday: August 16, 9:00 am – General Check-In Meeting (Food Lifeline)
We Feed WA Pilot Food Program update!

Year 2 of the WFW Pilot has begun!

Contracts are currently being negotiated and finalized

Award Types: We Feed WA Emergency Boxes, Fresh Boxes, Supplemental Food, Equity-Centered Household Distribution, and Technical Assistance.

A Common Thread (ACT)  Making a Difference Foundation
Cascadia Produce  Northwest Harvest
EastWest Food Rescue  Pacific Coast Fruit Company
FamilyWorks  Puget Sound Food Hub
Fare Start  Restoration Community Impact
Fo(u)r Roots Farm  Rural Resources
Food Lifeline  Seattle Good Business Network
Farmer Frog  Second Harvest
GuidenU4Life  Charlie’s Produce
Klesick Family Farm  United Way of King County
Local Inland Northwest Cooperative

OUR TEAM IS GROWING!
In addition to Jessica Hernandez, Program Lead, and Ashley Blowers, Contracts and Procurement Specialist, in June and July we were joined by:

Shoko Kumagai, Evaluation & Equity Specialist
Victor Kamau, Commerce Specialist I
Melinda Bratsch-Horsager, Commerce Specialist I

*Once all contracts are negotiated and executed, details about distribution region being covered by each Contractor and the last mile distribution partners (LMDPs) they will serve will be shared with Food Assistance
Thank you to all participants!

Hunger relief organizations inside and outside regularly contracted network were awarded. Approx. $4 million distributed across WA State.

Final stages of review and selection. Thank you, all applicants and reviewers! Notifications of award this week. $16 million to be distributed across WA State.

Final awards will fund:

• Currently Contracted and Uncontracted Organizations (FA Core Programs)
• Regional Distribution Organizations
• Rural organizations
• Statewide representation
Leah’s Pantry Training Opportunity

- Nutrition Pantry Program for Implementers – **REGISTER NOW**
  - Trauma-informed training to support policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes at food distribution sites that lead to client-centered and health-focused distributions – SNAP-Ed funded and offered through WSDA
  - Three live Zoom sessions (90 minutes each) – August 2, 16, and 30 at 1:30pm
  - Plus, self-paced work on the weeks in between

- Email [Patrick.Merscher@agr.wa.gov](mailto:Patrick.Merscher@agr.wa.gov) for registration link
Cook WA Meal Kit Pilot - Update

• **Cook WA Meal Kit**
  - Co-packing TEFAP commodities with WA seasonal produce, sauces, spices, and a recipe card inside a branded reusable tote
  - 11 nonprofits and 1 tribe participating statewide
  - 8 recipes developed/adapted from WA chefs

• **Insights from Contractors**
  - 19% of contractors struggled to implement the pilot
  - Struggles:
    - Procuring additional ingredients (supply, small amounts)
    - Volunteers packing and distributing kits
    - Combined freezer, refrigerated, shelf-stable items
    - TEFAP items didn’t come as expected (mostly rural groups)
Cook WA Meal Kit Pilot - Update

• **Insights from Clients**
  - Hugely positive response
  - 90% report cooking the recipe included in the meal kit
  - 95% report the recipe was Pretty Easy or Very Easy to prepare
  - 88% of people report at least somewhat enjoying the recipe
  - Clients say the Cook WA meal kits help them:
    • Develop cooking skills (31%)
    • Try new flavors or foods (81%)
    • Eat more veggies (52%)
    • Engage kids in cooking (17%)
    • Save time for other things (60%)

• **Round2/Next Steps**
  - WSDA has budgeted more money for recipe development/recipe cards
  - TBD: funding for additional food, sauces, spices, totes
  - **We are actively seeking feedback!**
TEFAP Forecasting

TEFAP Funds, Food Value and Clients

Funds:
- TEFAP Operational Funding
- TEFAP Food Conversion to Operational Funding
- TEFAP Funds Other
- Food Value: TEFAP Entitlement
- Food Value: TEFAP Bonus Food Estimate
- Food Value: TEFAP Food Other

Total Clients (all members in a household)
TEFAP Forecasting (updated)

TEFAP Operational Funds and Monthly Clients

- Funds: TEFAP Operational Funding
- Funds: TEFAP Food Conversion to Operational Funding
- Funds: TEFAP Funds Other
- Total Clients (all members in a household)
COVID-19 Check-In Meeting

Perseverance > Partnerships > Possibilities

Be Flexible

Change is Inevitable

Changing Landscape

Situations Change

Goals Remain Steady

Adapt and Overcome

NEVER GIVE UP

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."

- Michael Jordan