COVID-19 Check-in Meeting
Tuesday – November 30, 2021

• Katie Rains – krains@agr.wa.gov
  o WE Feed WA
    ▪ Contracts nearly complete – negotiations in process 26 contractors, family farms and, NGOs and produce companies.
    ▪ $13M in contracts for food boxes or food box equivalents
    ▪ 4 contractors surveying high need communities
    ▪ Low barrier access point – no means testing
    ▪ Food safety standards, from produce safety to retail food code compliance, have increased and monitoring visits commence in December
  ▪ Looking Ahead:
    • Over the remainder of the biennium, WSDA will analyze how and why these dual networks emerged, some prior to COVID and many as a result of COVID, and will work to bring them into alignment under one program
  o Decision Package Amendments
    ▪ Jessica Hernandez new staff working with Katie Rains
    ▪ Q: Christina Wong: Is the $74.8M the DP request or the total amount that would be spent in the remainder of the biennium?
    ▪ A: Increase request – This would be an increase 30 million this year to get funds out into the community.
      • Up to 44 million for the 2nd year in addition to the 18 million already appropriated.

• Trish Twomey – WA Food Coalition trish@wafoodcoalition.org
  o Membership dues are due
  o Tentative April Conference
  o News coming out about Fresh Awards – looking for nominations if you have any to recommend

• Maddie Price – Harvest Against Hunger maddie@harvestagainsthunger.org
  o HAH will provide a snapshot of survey results in the coming weeks.

• Aaron Czyzewski aaronc@foodlifeline.org
  o Campaign to combat military hunger – adding a basic needs allowance to the defense budget.
    ▪ WA congressional delegation has signed on
  o New bill to be introduced to include dependents on this
  o December 15th FLL is hosting a virtual town hall on the issue of military families and hunger

• Christina Wong christinaw@northwestharvest.org
o House passed BBB Act before thanksgiving - 10 billion in investment in childhood hunger programs. Summer EBT program nationwide $65 per student per month/$275 per student per summer. Funding for school kitchen equipment programs. Best nutrition practices for kids.

o Bill still needs to go to the senate.


o OUTREACH: Email alerts from FRAC to send to your congressperson: https://p2a.co/iG9pJFn?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=5c4c6cfc-0736-407b-a02b-9b6e83bb8640

o Bill would NOT add to the deficit.

o Schools are having a lot of difficulty getting meals to quarantined families. OSPI is producing a best practices for districts who want to expand their reach to underserved COIVID affected families.
  ▪ Send examples of how to reach kids to Christina Wong: christinaw@northwestharvest.org

• Claire Lane - Claire.Lane2@gmail.com
  o State Legislative Session
    ▪ Supply Chain Constraints – proposing to support WSDA request for supplemental funding and WE Feed WA. Asking for a similar investment in School Lunch programs to feed kids during this time $10 million.
    ▪ Supporting a bill that opens up more access to food through schools. New formula that would be used in WA state, could lead to free meals for ALL kids in WA state.
    ▪ DSHS has opened community services offices in a very limited way. Only specific groups have access. Everyone else has to use phones.
      ▪ This would fundamentally change (call center) how people access services in WA state that would be more effective. New method to serve Washingtonians falls short of providing equitable access.

• David Bobanick david@harvestagainsthunger.org
  o HAH capacity survey will be wrapped up in the next few weeks. Thanks to everyone who participated.
  o Looking to align strategic planning with findings from the survey.

• WSDA new Staff Regional Representative Map
  o Heidi Cobun – Coming to WSDA from Clark County Food Bank. Has a half decade of experience running our programs. Will be a great addition to the team.
  o Anna Berrey - Assisting our team with grants, special projects, and more!

• James Scovel – jscovel@agr.wa.gov
  o Subcontractor Inventory Training Questions that came up
    ▪ What are contractors doing with the Subcontractor inventory report?
    ▪ What are contractors doing with loss reports?
    ▪ What should we be doing with expired TEFAP food?
Food Ordering Work Group

- TEFAP entitlement vs TEFAP bonus items
- Items available to be ordered for TEFAP entitlement orders
- Yearly entitlement Fruit and Vegetable orders
- Quarterly TEFAP entitlement orders
- Providing feedback on TEFAP items
- April to June TEFAP entitlement orders

If you’re interested in participating in the food ordering group:

Food Order workgroup meeting
Fri, Dec 3, 2021 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (PST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/867183405

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (408) 650-3123

Access Code: 867-183-405

- Lindsey Robinson Capacity Grants – lnrobinson@agr.wa.gov
  o $4 million this round.
  o Looking to provide additional funding in the 2nd round of funding this spring.
  o Keep eyes open for another small (sub $5k) grants opportunity this winter (next couple of months)
  o Requirements: SAM registration and DUNS number, operational for 12 months, etc.
  o More information: https://agr.wa.gov/grants

- Nichole Garden F2FP and TEFAP F2FB – ngarden@agr.wa.gov
  o Last day for Farm 2 Food Pantry (F2FP) applications
    ▪ Application: https://www.harvestagainsthunger.org/farm-to-food-pantry/
      https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access/hunger-relief-resources/food-assistance-grants-information-and-opportunities/f2fp-grant
    ▪ Increase in funds available
    ▪ 10% of allocation can be used for Administrative expenses.
    ▪ 30% of funds can be used for non-produce foods
    ▪ Eligible organizations: 501(c)3, tribe or public agency
    ▪ Registered w/ SAM, SOS, hold a Statewide vendor #
  o TEFAP Farm 2 Food Bank (processing of donated foods to reduce food waste)
    ▪ Grant opens early December and open until January 31st 2022
    ▪ New: cost of picking and packing product
Kim Eads – keads@agr.wa.gov

- Legislative update – revised proposal
  - Updated based on the Capacity Survey:
    - 75% of Survey less Infrastructure = $17,625,000
  - Strategic Plan Development for Capacity in the next Biennium:
    - Starting in January 2022

- Local Purchasing Cooperative Grant
  - USDA Status – still no new news
    - Status Pending
      - Amount of funding: $8 million estimated (for Washington State) over 2 years
      - Purpose of funding: Building, strengthening relationships between farmers/ranchers/producers and local food systems, including BIPOC farmers and expanding the reach to underserved communities.

- Met with Local Purchasing Cooperative Grant Discussion Workgroup:
  - Data Points
  - Funding Ideas
  - Approach to Allocation Ideas

- Next Steps:
  - Meeting with Tribes and Tribal Organizations
  - Meeting with Farmers

- UPDATES:
  - No meetings in December
  - If you don’t receive the meeting invites for January or need to add a new staff person (or remove someone who as left), contact your regional representative.