

## General Focus Check-In Meeting – May 21, 2024

### Focus on Food Initiatives – Katie Rains, WSDA

- Planning for future financial and policy requests to governor and legislation for next session in January.
- Recap on Focus on Food Initiative.
  - Started as a Director's initiative in 2019. Core concept is that: food is the cornerstone of agriculture and a tool for bridging the urban and rural divide.
  - Explore programs that support the food supply chain.
  - Through Covid, our agency budget doubled, and the service need has also increased.
  - WSDA has awarded \$250M in 4 years, also state food purchasing and food reserves through FA, and other program grants, (detailed in the slideshow)
  - Farm to School grants, Meat and Poultry grants.
- WA State Equity and Environmental Justice (HEAL act 2021)
  - Requires ongoing dialogue.
  - Coordinated effort with 7 state agencies to reduce environmental harm, including food disparities.
- PEAR Executive Order 2022
  - Requires a shift in how we operate as a government to improve equity.
- Community Engagement Plan
  - CDC definition: working collaboratively with regional neighbors.
  - It is a foundation to build relational equity, not a one-time event.
  - Surveys, UW Survey, to gather information from clients.
  - Stakeholder engagement plan for farm and food businesses.
- WSDA is working on short term goals, to put together one pagers on current programs. Also gather information on priorities and needs of stakeholders to build short- and long-term goals for the Farm Bill, expanding work capacity, reviewing our communication networks.
- As WSDA's policy agenda is developed, this group will receive monthly updates as well as the stakeholder survey. Folks are welcome to contact me any time with policy inquiries or comments [krains@agr.wa.gov](mailto:krains@agr.wa.gov) AND [food@agr.wa.gov](mailto:food@agr.wa.gov). Thanks!
- Questions:
  - Q: Will the info about food sources include retailers, too, or just focus on producers?
    - A: Great questions - retailers can respond to the stakeholder survey, but the information sharing that we'll be doing is focused on programs/resources/services that we provide. At this time, we don't have programs or services that benefit retailers specifically.
- **Contact:**
  - Katie Rains, Food Policy Advisor to the Director
  - [krains@agr.wa.gov](mailto:krains@agr.wa.gov)
  - 360-688-4549

## Washington Food Coalition – Trish Twomey

- WFC is out of funds for interpretation and translation projects. Will hope to get more funding in the future.
- Taking nominations for even numbered districts and 4 at large members for the board of directors, deadline extended to 5/23.
- Creating a food calendar, accepting food images.
- Training: June 12 2pm Safety and Health Basics for Food Programs, Accident Prevention Program, Nancy Bacon.
- Fiscal sponsorship training, roles, and responsibilities June 20 2:30-3:30 link in chat.
- Conference Sept 18-20 in Wenatchee.
- More details are in the WFC Newsletter and website.
- If you are interested in WFC Board involvement and your program resides in the following counties, please contact Trish, [trish@wafoodcoalition.org](mailto:trish@wafoodcoalition.org)
  - **WFC's Even Numbered Districts include:**
  - 2 - Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties
  - 4 - Spokane and Whitman Counties
  - 6 - Benton & Franklin Counties
  - 8 - Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island & San Juan Counties
  - 10 - Pierce County
  - 12 - Cowlitz, Clark, Wahkiakum, Klickitat & Skamania Counties
  - 14 - Kitsap, Clallam, Jefferson & Mason Counties
  - We also are trying to fill 4 At Large positions. These positions will not be Hunger Relief organizations.
- **Contact:**
  - Trish Twomey, Executive Director
  - [trish@wafoodcoalition.org](mailto:trish@wafoodcoalition.org)

## Advocacy Updates – Claire Lane, AHNC

- Busy weekend in Washington DC.
- The House Released their Farm Bill Language, which include some big problems for hunger.
- Thank you to 98 organizations who signed the letter to Washington's delegation.
- Cut \$30B from SNAP over the next decade. Underlying Summer EBT and TEFAP and SNAP is the Thrifty Food Plan, which had a small bump in 2022 after the first review in 40 years. The House wants to reevaluate the Thrifty Food Plan every 5 years, but also propose not adjusting the underlying formula.
- There are also Conservation issues with the Bill, it doesn't spend any of the climate, smart AG, and conservation money. The vote is on Thursday, a WA member of our delegation is on the committee.
- Senate AG Farm Bill does not cut SNAP and does use Conservation budget.
- Another hearing tomorrow to limit SNAP choices on food in the Appropriations Committee.
- State
  - DSHS and OSPI, successfully funded Summer EBT to continue Pandemic EBT and is now permanent. Encourage your clients to enroll in SNAP/TANF to automatically enroll in

Summer EBT, link below to the form to fill out Alternate Household Income Form application. If not pre-registered, will have to wait for summer to enroll, and will be delayed application process. The Form also tells schools how many students are in financial need and will get fee waivers and free meals.

- Would like to hear insights on policy requests.
- Food Lifeline is partnering with Emergency Food Network on May 28<sup>th</sup> for a military family hunger town hall in person event, email for invite: [aaronc@foodlifeline.org](mailto:aaronc@foodlifeline.org)
- Questions:
  - Q: Can you kindly provide us links we can share that information please. Also information about how we learn more about next year's agendas and how we can contribute.
    - A: Here's how you can find your local school district's school meal application/household income form for Summer EBT eligibility: <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/child-nutrition/school-meals/washington-school-meals-application-finder>
    - Hi, Amanda - AHNC will be holding a coalition mtg in June to begin those discussions about our legislative agenda.

## Sharing

- C: Our numbers are continuing to increase.
- OSL just opened our new 13,000 square foot commercial kitchen and cold, frozen, and dry storage on 5/20. It is equipped to do 15,000 meals a day. We are currently doing 7000 meals a day. We are providing storage to Meals Partnership Coalition members and our Food Bank partners as well for overflow storage.
- Q: This is my first meeting – are the shareouts general questions or specific to certain operations?
  - A: Whatever you want them to be, any challenges or successes. Or sharing information that you've learned.
- C: FYI only – article in NYT this morning about free school meals.
- C: We're going to need two agendas this fall for 3 initiatives on the November ballot, which would repeal three initiatives and all three would negatively impact the hunger relief system. Budgets are rumored to be tight.
- I was sad to miss the "Nonpartisan Advocacy: How 501(c)(3)s Can Educate and Advocate During Election Season" training on 5/17-- was this recorded? Will any content be shared? Thank you in advance!
  - That webinar was put on by national partners and I don't have a recording, but AHNC is planning to do a WA-specific version this summer. FYI: any organization that receives FNS support MUST offer nonpartisan voter registration. So if your org receives TEAP food, participates in Summer Meals, conducts SNAP outreach... that means you! This is a great resource from FRAC about allowable elections work: <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/anti-hunger-nonprofits-and-elections.pdf>
- Q: What's OSL?
  - Operation Sack Lunch

- One thing we are hearing at our pantry: fruit trees are struggling with the weather and very little fruit will mature this year. This is hurting those that rely on the fruit for work this time of year.

## FA Resiliency Grants – Anna Berrey Hamill, WSDA FA

- Round 4 (SFY 2025) application process will be composed of two phases of submissions and scoring.
  - Phase 1: Request for Concept Proposal is closed.
    - 230 proposals submitted, \$24M in requests for \$5.3M available.
  - Review and selection for Phase 2: Full Application is in process.
  - Notifications will be sent around June 1, 2024.
- **Contact:**
  - Anna Hamill and Britt Beug: [foodassistancegrants@agr.wa.gov](mailto:foodassistancegrants@agr.wa.gov)
  - <https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access/hunger-relief-resources/food-assistance-grants/resiliency-grants>

## Spend Down – Kyle Merslich, WSDA FA

- Please work to get all funds spent, goods and services received: June 30, 2024.
  - If you can submit early, it's appreciated.
- EFAP State, EFAP Federal, EFAP Supplemental, TEFAP Gap, CSFP Gap, LFPA Gap, TEFAP R&R, and Misc agreements.
- If you can't spenddown, notify your Regional Rep ASAP but no later than Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - We can reallocate that money.
- Some Lead Agencies have earlier deadlines, Sub Agencies please contact your Lead Agencies and double check your books to make sure you've spent the money that you think you've spent.
- Questions: contact your Regional Representative – Erin, Heidi, Mallorie, and Kyle.

## Food Updates – James Scovel, WSDA FA

- Reserve Warehouse upcoming orders:

Diced Canned Tomato - Del Monte	Black beans dry
Fruit Cocktail No Sugar Added	Canned Jalapenos Diced
Canned Mix Veg (low Sodium)	Masa
Canned Corn	Hominy
Pinto Beans	White rice
Spam	Brown rice
Skippy Peanut Butter	Quinoa
Dinty Moore Beef Stew	Refried Beans
Soy Sauce	Menudo
Tuna	El Pato Tomato Sauce
Veg oil	Tuna and Crackers Lunch on the go pack
C&H Sugar	Canned peaches
General Mills Flour	Diced Mango -Del Monte
Kelloggs Corn Flakes	Canned chicken
Kelloggs Fruit Loops	Pasta Spaghetti
Kelloggs Rasin Bran	Egg Noodles
	Pancake Mix
	Campbell's Chicken Noodle
	Campbell Tomato Soup
	Canned Beef Tamales
	Hormel Chili w/beans

- We are in the process of ordering the items that we had discussed in the last Food Order Workgroup.
  - Email for an invite to provide input on future orders for Food Order Workgroups.
  - Transcript for list of food being ordered. \$2M of additional TEFAP Entitlement when the full budget was given. \$600k will get rolled over to next year. CCC food is still coming.

ITEM	PO Number	Preferred Unit Size	Pack Size	Gross lbs.	Price EST	Number of cases per truck	Pallets FTL	US Pallet	# of Trucks	Received	Ordered
Diced Canned Tomato - Del Monte		14.5 oz	24/14.5 oz	26.64	\$ 17.57	3264			3		9792
Fruit Cocktail No Sugar Added		15 oz.	12/15 oz.	13	\$ 33.01	3264			2		6528
Canned Mix Veg (low Sodium)		14.5 oz.	12/14.5 oz.	13.2	\$ 24.15	3264			3		9792
Canned Corn		16 oz.	24/15.25 oz.	25.98	\$ 34.69	1564		17	92	2	3128
Pinto Beans		1 lb. bag	24/1 Lbs	24	\$ 28.84	1716		22	78	3	5148
Spam		12	24/12 oz	20.1	\$ 86.68	2100		25	84	2	4200
Skipppy Peanut Butter		16.3	12/16.3 oz.	13.33	\$ 36.61	2376		27	88	2	4752
Dinty Moore Beef Stew		20 oz	12/20 oz	17.88	\$ 35.22	2376		27	88	2	4752
Soy Sauce		5 oz bottles?	12/5 oz	7.93	\$ 20.36	500		0	0	1	500
Tuna		5 oz.	48/5 oz	19	\$ 49.29	2240		20	112	2	4480
Veg oil		40 oz.	9/40 oz.	22.5	\$ 66.70	1728			1		1728
C&H Sugar		4 LB	10/4 lbs.	40.4	\$ 44.89	1020		17	60	1	1020
General Mills Flour		5 LB	8/5 lbs.	40.8	\$ 32.90	1062			1		1062
Kelloggs Corn Flakes		18 oz.	6/18 oz.	6.75	\$ 30.24	2520		70	36	1	2520
Kelloggs Fruit Loops		23 oz.	10/23 oz.	14.38	\$ 54.60	1080		60	18	2	2160
Kelloggs Raisin Bran		24 oz.	16/24 oz.	24	\$ 75.84	1440		80	18	1	1440
New Items											
Black beans dry		1 lb. bag									0
Canned Jalapenos Diced		4 oz.									0
Masa		22 oz.	4/ 22oz.	6	\$ 12.72	6990		20	304	1	6990
Hominy		14 oz. to 25 oz.									0
White rice		2 lb. bag	12/2 lbs	24.97	\$ 24.77						0
Brown rice		2 lb. bag	12/2 lbs	25	\$ 24.77						0
Quinoa											0
Refried Beans		15 oz.	12/16 oz	12	\$ 22.62						0
Menudo		14 oz. to 25 oz.									0
El Pato Tomato Sauce		7 3/4 oz.									0
Tuna and Crackers Lunch on the go pack		4.1 oz.									0
Canned peaches		16 oz.	24/300		\$ 31.76						0
Diced Mango - Del Monte		15 oz.	12/15 oz.	14.06	\$ 30.45						0
Canned chicken		10 oz.	12/10 oz.	7.5	\$ 38.76	4640		29	160	1	4640
Pasta Spaghetti		1 lb or 2lb									0
Egg Noodles		1 lb or 2lb									0
Pancake Mix		2lb to 5lb									0
Campbell's Chicken Noodle		10.75 oz.	48/10.75	37.5	\$ 78.67						0
Campbell Tomato Soup		7.25oz RTE	24/7.25 oz	13.3	\$ 24.54						0
Canned Beef Tamales		15 oz	12/15 oz.		\$ 24.17	3168		22	144		0
Hormel Chili w/beans		15 oz	12/15 oz.		\$ 29.28	3168		22	144		0

- Questions:
  - C: James really does listen! Great opportunity to get your voice heard!
- Contact:
  - James Scovel – [jscovel@agr.wa.gov](mailto:jscovel@agr.wa.gov), 360-725-5641
  - John Carney – [john.carney@agr.wa.gov](mailto:john.carney@agr.wa.gov), 360-485-1258
  - Website: <https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access>

## General FA Updates – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- Community Engagement (Summer) – WSDA Broad Effort
- FA will be offering a multi-phased approach:
  - Opportunities to provide input and shape future improvements, multiple feedback “channels,” and timeframes.
  - Phase 1 (June/July): initial surveys, emails, informational sessions. Focused on questions on programs and topics. No decisions or policy changes at that time.
  - Phase 2 (Sept/Oct/Nov): share survey data and next steps.
  - Future Phases: discussions and focus on long-term improvements.
- EFAP Recommendations Report – Addendum coming in June/July and will be available on our website. Future Emergent focusing on Sub Agency experience, again no changes immediately.
- Food Assistance Advisory Committee

- Reviewing FAAC structure; part of WFC; more clarity is needed on how this committee works.
- Goal: Adding two community members to FAAC
- Interested in being the FAAC chair? Contact Michelle Douglas at [michelle@efoodnet.org](mailto:michelle@efoodnet.org)
- Updating Food Procurement Resources
- Gearing up for USDA FNS audit of TEFAP (most likely in September)
- Anticipate another audit by the State Auditors Office (November/TBD)
- TEFAP/CSFP – proposed federal rule changes should be out this summer and will be shared.
- New Location for Past Meeting Minutes/Presentations
  - Food Assistance Website > Hunger Relief Resources > General Focus Meeting Information
  - Link: <https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access/hunger-relief-resources/general-focus-meeting-information>

## Office Hours & Trainings – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- LFPA
  - Quarterly open office hours.
  - Farm to Community Team
  - Contact Jeff Mathias – [jeff.mathias@agr.wa.gov](mailto:jeff.mathias@agr.wa.gov)
- Lead Agency – Core Programs
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month
  - Q&A, info sharing
  - Problem solving
  - Contact your Regional Representative
- Resiliency Grant
  - TBD
  - Link on RG Webpage
- Training: Review Portfolio Walkthrough
  - Lead Agency Review Form
  - Sub Agency Review Form
  - Date: TBD

## Upcoming:

- Food Assistance Advisory Committee
  - June TBD
- Lead Agency Check-In Meeting
  - Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00-10:00am
- General Check-In Meeting
  - Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00-10:00am