

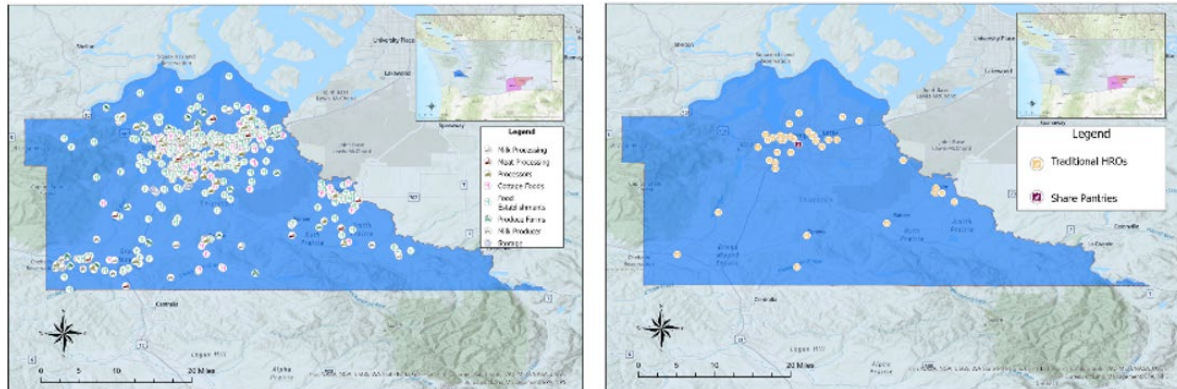
General Focus Check-In Meeting – October 22, 2024

Presentation: Developing a Food Waste & Food Rescue Map in Washington – Anna Reed & Mariah Rubin, UW

- Food Rescue Ecosystem Map
 - The UFWW Plan recommended developing and maintaining a Washington State map of food flows and food waste reduction opportunities.
 - The map will focus on food rescue opportunities and will collect the best available data from local health jurisdictions, state agencies, and hunger relief organizations.
 - In Autumn 2023, we developed a pilot map looking at Thurston, Benton, and Franklin counties.

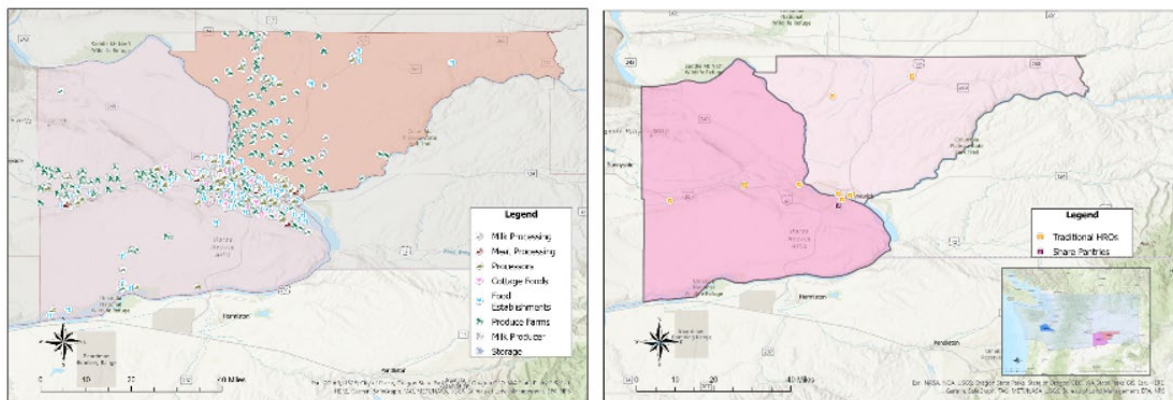
Thurston County

Distribution of potential food donors (food businesses) and hunger relief organizations that could receive food rescue donations



Benton and Franklin Counties

Distribution of potential food donors (food businesses) and hunger relief organizations that could receive food rescue donations



- Received approval to expand to a statewide map.
- Generate Mapping Tool
 - Using data from the EPA Excess Food Opportunities Map, local health jurisdictions, state agencies, and hunger relief organizations.
 - Identify audiences for this map (internal vs. external).
 - Displayed example maps and user experience formats.
- Pilot Project: Survey Food Businesses
 - Identify food businesses that:
 - Are currently rescuing/donating food
 - Are or not interested in donating and why
 - This will help us identify new connection and logistic opportunities, as well as potential barriers to donation.
- Survey & Interviews
 - Focused interviews with select HROs:
 - Discuss tools relevant to food rescue; how the map may be used to fill gaps.
 - Identify map components that should be incorporated to increase functionality.
 - Online survey of HROs to:
 - Assess capacity & infrastructure needs
 - Validate mapping data
 - Understand current food rescue efforts
- Used 2021 Capacity Report to compare pandemic results to post-pandemic results.
- Participate in the 2024 Capacity Survey
 - The survey will assess current capacity and future needs of organizations providing hunger relief services in Washington State. In addition, it will inform a food rescue map designed to increase the effectiveness of food rescue operations in the state by improving coordination and resource allocation.
 - [Link to the 2024 Capacity Survey here](#)
- Results will be available in the spring.
- **Contact:**
 - Anna Reed, Research Coordinator (UW), areed5@uw.edu

Washington Food Coalition – Trish Twomey

- Fundraising Training – date link in chat
- Best Practices Manual – newsletter form link
- Calendars and Tshirts leftovers from conference
- Strategic/Succession Training
- **Contact:**
 - Trish Twomey, Executive Director
 - trish@wafoodcoalition.org

Harvest Against Hunger – David Bobanick, HAH

- Send Small Capacity Grant Invoices to capacity@harvestagainsthunger.org
- Hunger Relief Rotary Grant – [link](#) to \$1000 grants through Rotary clubs

- Cohort Farm to Food Bank tour, partnering with Aaron from Food Lifeline and King County, to highlight the importance of connections in communities between small scale growers and hunger relief organizations. The recording is available. Send an email to David to request a copy
- **Contact:**
 - David Bobanick
 - david@harvestagainsthunger.org
 - capacity@harvestagainsthunger.org

Advocacy Updates – Claire Lane, Aaron Czyzewski, Jamie Wheeler, AHNC

- Election Season, it's important to ask clients if they have gotten their ballots, can register up until election day.
- Initiatives coming up that impact hunger relief that we want to vote "No"
 - I-2109: Repeals Capital Gains Tax, which provides \$800M/year for K12 education and childcare funding ([link in chat](#))
 - I-2117: Repeals Carbon Tax from the Climate Commitment Act, which provides \$1.5B in conservation climate protection ([link in chat](#))
 - I-2124: Repeals WA Cares program, the state long-term healthcare insurance program
 - I-2066: Repeals Energy Efficiency for New Buildings and Renewable Energy Options.
 - Altogether would cause a \$3-5B budget deficit in the next two years.
- WA State Budget
 - Expected \$8-10B budget deficit over the next four years already.
 - Governor's initial proposed budget (Book One) will be submitted in December and will need to balance the budget. Second budget (Book Two) can propose tax increases.
 - Our state requires the proposed budget to balance over the next 2 and 4 years.
- Organizations who receive FNS funding, are responsible to aid in voter registration. But need to be careful to be non-partisan and without endorsing individuals but can endorse initiatives.
 - [FRAC \(Food Research and Action Center\) Guide to Permissible Activities for 501\(c\)\(3\)s.](#)
 - [Register to Vote in Washington State.](#)
- Candidate Questionnaire: [Link](#) Candidates were sent the questionnaire and asked their position on hunger relief activities and have posted their responses here.
- Nov 21st, Food Lifeline Board will meet and Advocacy Agenda, Session Priorities.
- Congress, everyone is back home, they have to pass a budget (continuing resolution that extends to Dec 9th but not close to a deal). The Farm Bill has expired. On Jan 1st a 1930's milk policy will come into effect and raise milk prices.
- New Food Lifeline survey to weigh in on a number of issues.
- Hunger Caucus/Food Fighters in the House may expand to the Senate. Advocates are planning to meet to trade notes and make sure to align strategies and priorities.
- **Questions/Comments**
 - <https://www.nwprogressive.org/weblog/2024/09/defend-washington-launches-television-ad-introducing-voters-to-brian-heywood-and-urging-a-no-vote-on-all-of-his-initiatives.html>
 - Defend Washington is the broad coalition of orgs who have endorsed the NO on all four initiatives
 - Is there an initiative cheat sheet we can use?

I-2109	I-2117	I-2124	I-2066
Repeals Washington's limited capital gains tax, eliminating over \$2.2 billion in funding for education, childcare, and early learning by giving a tax break to the state's wealthiest. Vote no on I-2109.	A purposely misleading initiative opposed by firefighters, small business owners, doctors, Tribal Nations and more. No to more pollution. No to more traffic congestion. Vote no on I-2117.	Seeks to dismantle WA Cares, Washington's long-term care benefit program, potentially stripping over 3 million workers of over \$8.1 billion in guaranteed, earned benefits. Vote no on I-2124.	Increases energy bills and attacks energy efficiency by repealing and prohibiting commonsense protections. Vote no on I-2066.

- [Defend Washington Link](#)
- That's now two consecutive days that I've heard the term "milk policy"...
- Here's a cheat sheet for all four: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6563bcad792e8d0dcb5e64b9/t/671290d75ce76e411c6d70db/1729269983069/Slate+Card+-+Oct+2024.pdf>
- And each initiative's individual fact sheet is here: <https://defend-washington.com/resources>

- **Contact:**

- Aaron Czyzewski, aaronc@foodlifeline.org (813) 503-3535
- Claire Lane, Claire.Lane2@gmail.com (206) 446-0966

Poll – Tarnah Wright, WSDA FA

- In response to feedback regarding the length of the General Focus meetings, we're going to have a quick poll that will affect the scheduled length of the General Focus Check-In meetings in 2025.
 - 60 minutes – 17 votes
 - 90 minutes – 6 votes
- Meetings will remain 60 minutes for 2025.

EFAP Survey Results – Heidi Cobun, WSDA FA

- EFAP Survey
 - Number of Responses 117
 - 81% participate in EFAP
 - 18% don't participate in EFAP
 - Administrative CAP: Proposed Rule: Admin CAP 15% of allocation, Lead Agency Admin CAP 20% of agreement award, regardless of additional roles. Removes the multiple role increased percentages for Admin CAP.
 - 58% agree
 - 14% disagree
 - 28% unsure
 - Administrative CAP: If funding levels increased, would this change your response?
 - 23% yes
 - 77% no
 - County Allocation Base: Proposed Rule: County Allocation: Increase the county base amount to \$20,000
 - 86% agree

- 0% disagree
 - 13% unsure
 - County Allocation Base: If funding levels increased, would this change your response?
 - 15% yes
 - 85% no
 - Prospective Sub Agency: Proposed Rule: Prospective Sub Agency contacts Lead Agency and CCs WSDA FA. If the Lead Agency doesn't respond to the prospective Sub Agency, then FA will assist with Lead Agency response.
 - 67% agree
 - 11% disagree
 - 21% unsure
 - If you could make any other changes to EFAP in the coming biennium, what would your top two changes be?
 - Reporting: simplify; combine invoice vouchers; longer time to turn things in; stop collecting 1st visit of the year.
 - Non-food: Increase 25% cap; expand items considered as essential non-food.
 - Biennial Meeting: Vote before the meeting; remove vote for new organizations; better clarity on vetting new agencies; what models/processes exist in other counties; keep meeting to 2 hours; food banks should get a vote.
 - Funding: Increase it; more pass-thru to subs; more salary funding; county allocation to factor in number of subs; more funds for food; quicker reimbursements; list how to split funds between Lead and Subs; distribute based on client numbers not pounds of food.
 - Lead/Sub: More opportunities to apply for Lead status; bypass non-responsive Leads; more assistance and training for Leads; WSDA direct support to subs; Leads shouldn't receive credit for work of subs.
 - Communication: Better and more timely; have WSDA-led "office hours" for all EFAP participants or prospects; periodic workshops to understand the forms.
 - Other: Raise the \$5k threshold; share statewide EFAP service metrics; greater cooperation between pantries and neighboring networks; serving all WA is overwhelming; reach out to native agencies.
- EFAP-Tribal Survey
 - Number of Responses: 25
 - 50% participate in EFAP
 - 50% don't participate in EFAP
 - Voucher Operations: Proposed Rule: Increase tribal voucher program operational expenses CAP to 10%.
 - 65% agree
 - 10% disagree
 - 25% unsure
 - Voucher Operations: If funding levels increased, would this change your response?
 - 48% yes
 - 52% no

- Administrative CAP: Proposed Rule: Tribal Sub Agency Admin CAP 15% of allocation, Tribal Lead Agency Admin CAP 20% of agreement, regardless of additional roles. Removes the multiple role increased percentages for Admin.
 - 76% agree
 - 0% disagree
 - 23% unsure
- Administrative CAP: If funding levels increased, would this change your response?
 - 11% yes
 - 89% no
- Allocation Base: No change to current rule: Tribal Allocation base amount: 50% of total tribal allocation – split evenly between all participating tribes.
 - 44% agree
 - 16% disagree
 - 39% unsure
- Allocation Base: If funding levels increased, would this change your response?
 - 30% yes
 - 70% no
- If you could make any other changes to EFAP-Tribal in the coming biennium, what would your top two changes be?
 - Funding: Increase it and account for inflation; direct funding; prorate funding by the populations of tribes.
 - Eligibility: Increase eligibility criteria; allow descendants to be eligible; increase the income amounts for eligibility.
 - Communication: Publicize program through non-social media alternatives.
 - Other: Food delivery or options for clients who are disabled, elderly, or without transportation; deliver food vouchers to elders; more flexibilities.
- Wrap Up
 - 142 total survey responses
 - Feedback was from both participants and nonparticipants of the EFAP program.
 - FA will use the data and assess the viability of making these changes to the program in the next biennium.

Things to Know – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- Food Assistance Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Thursday 10/24 from 10-11:30am
- EFAP Recommendations
 - Original Recommendations Report
 - Follow Up (Impact Perspectives) Report
 - [Link to Hunger in WA page](#) where reports are available.
- Federal budgets are not final, so TEFAP FFY25 estimates are similar to FFY24
 - 1/12 monthly limit until budgets are finalized.
- CSFP FFY25 assumes no increase, based on state's approved caseload, also not finalized. FFY25 estimates based on FFY24.
 - 1/12 monthly limit until budgets are finalized.
- LFPA & LFPA Plus Extension

- Requesting a “no cost” extension through SFY 2026 for any unspent LFPA and LFPA Plus Funding through June 30, 2025.
- **New USDA \$/foods**
 - TEFAP CCC new round will be coming, don’t know the timing. Nationally \$500M, estimate \$11.7M for WA
 - LFPA Plus new round will be coming. Nationally \$500M, estimate \$7.4M for WA. Will only be for purchasing unprocessed or minimally processed. FA will try to add LFPA GAP to cover administrative/operating costs.
 - WSDA FA: Reserve Warehouse Food \$4M, broken out into 2 purchase periods, one Oct 31st, the other early Jan.
- **Questions/Comments**
 - It would be helpful to hear the full program names for folks who don’t know all the acronyms.
 - Definitely. The USDA Local Food Purchasing Cooperative Agreement is referred to as LFPA.
 - TEFAP Commodity Credit Corporation is referred to as TEFAP CCC. This includes both food and funds for Lead Agencies that participate in TEFAP.
 - USDA Commodity Supplemental Food Program is referred to as CSFP.
 - [Link to website program information](#)
 - How much money is WA getting? Understanding these aren’t final?
 - \$18-19M estimated
 - \$18M in new food and purchasing power is SO sorely needed – this is a great bit of relief!

Food Ordering Workgroup – James Scovel, WSDA FA

- Join us to talk about Reserve Warehouse Food Orders
- We can order products we wouldn’t normally get in TEFAP or CSFP, for example canned diced chilies, rice noodles, soy sauce, masa.
- October 31st 2024 2-3pm
- **Questions/Comments:**
 - How do I get an invite to this Food Order Workgroup meeting?
 - Send James/John an email to request an invite.
- **Contact:**
 - James Scovel – jscovel@agr.wa.gov, 360-725-5641
 - John Carney – john.carney@agr.wa.gov, 360-485-1258
 - Website: <https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access>

Office Hours & Trainings – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- **LFPA**
 - Quarterly open office hours, TBD last week in October
 - Quarterly reports due Oct. 20th
 - Farm to Community Team
 - Contact Jeff Mathias – jeff.mathias@agr.wa.gov

- Lead Agency – Core Programs
 - 1st Tuesday of the month
 - Q&A, info sharing
 - Problem solving
 - Contact your Regional Representative
- Resiliency Grant
 - 2nd Friday of the month
 - Contact Anna Hamill
- Food Order Work Group Meeting
 - Thursday, October 31st 2-3pm
 - Contact James Scovel or John Carney

Upcoming:

- Food Assistance Advisory Committee
 - Thursday, October 24th 10:00-11:30am
- Food Order Work Group Meeting
 - Thursday, October 31st 2-3pm
- Lead Agency Check-In Meeting (last Lead Agency Check-In meeting for the year)
 - Friday, November 1st 9:00-10:00am
- Lead Agency Check-In Meeting
 - Friday, January 3rd 9:00-10:00am
- General Focus Check-In Meeting
 - Tuesday, January 21st 9:00-10:00am