

General Focus Check-In Meeting – August 19, 2025

Please note that at this time AI programs are not allowed at WSDA hosted meetings and they will be denied or removed from the meeting.

Blue Sky Minds – Maria Hines

- About Blue Sky Minds/Okanogan Food Council
 - Nonprofit organization started in 2022.
 - Blue Sky Minds supports the growth of equitable, sustainable, and economically thriving food systems in Washington State, emphasizing the Okanogan region, including Okanogan County and the Colville Reservation. We cultivate collaborations in local community food systems by facilitating convenings, sharing resources, and engaging in outreach.
 - Some of Blue Sky Minds' projects include:
 - The facilitation and management of the Okanogan Region Food Council
 - Council includes academia, public health, WSU extension, Colville reservation, conservation district, rancher, and farmers.
 - Considers all the perspectives of the food systems, land the food is grown on, growing, harvesting, processed, manufactured, distribution, infrastructure, food sovereignty, farm stands, restaurants, retail food businesses.
 - Preparing the Okanogan Region Food Action Plan alongside the food council, to be completed by 2026
 - Performed a Local Community Food System assessment in 2024 ([available on the website](#)).
 - Covers how much farmland we have, what food is being grown, etc.
 - And collaborations such as:
 - The Inchelium Red Garlic Revitalization Coalition
 - Encouraging local growers, distribute the garlic locally, repeat.
 - Collaboration with WSU Colville Reservation extension, Colville Reservation Conservation District, Conservation NW, Intertribal Agricultural Council, and LIGHT Foundation.
 - The newly launched Okanogan Glean, supporting Okanogan County Community Action Council.
- Okanogan Region Hunger Relief Report
 - Process

Local Community Food System Survey Using the Tailored Design Method

Community Participatory Meetings With Community Members with Lived Experience

Interviews With Our Region's Leaders Addressing Hunger & Food Access

Desk Research on Local Hunger & Food Access Statistical Data

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- Full Report available on website. <https://www.blueskymindsnonprofit.com/report>



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- **Comments:**
 - Such great learning! Thank you for sharing Maria.
 - The Washington State Food Policy Forum is also working in this space to support local food policy councils
 - We'd love to partner with you both to do Grower Roundtables in the spring.
 - Feel free to reach out!
 - Thank you all for your time and the work you do in our communities!
- **Contact:**
 - Maria Hines, Executive Director
 - maria@blueskymindsnonprofit.com

WSDA Focus on Food – Katie Rains

- Hearing demand is up and food supplies are down.
- WSDA has issued an historic amount of funding, recognizing that it is not enough to meet demand.
- Cabinet agency, anticipating a poor revenue forecast in September, will not be authorized to request additional funding from the state legislature.
- We recognize all the pressures for the food, housing, and healthcare safety nets and that you are the front line. Keep us informed on what you're experiencing, so we can use that data to communicate with the Governor and the congressional delegation.
- If you'd like to share feedback about your experiences with WA's Food Systems, please feel free to contact WSDA through this comment form: [Focus on Food Systems Survey](#)
- Rep. Reeves, the Chair of the House Agriculture Committee will be pursuing a coordinated food security strategy at the state level.
- **Contact:**
 - Katie Rains, Food Policy Advisor to the Director
 - krains@agr.wa.gov
 - 360-688-4549

Washington Food Coalition – Trish Twomey, Kyla Tucker

- Seeds to Success Conference in Kennewick/Tri-Cities September 17-19. Registration is open: [WFC Member link](#), [Non-Member Link](#)
- Get your hotel rooms asap.
- Statewide Fresh Results Awards will be honored at the Conference.
 - Recommend nominees: farmers, growers, etc. [Nomination link here.](#)
- Announcement that Trish Twomey is retiring at the end of the calendar year and the opening for her position is open and closes Sept 15th.
 - <https://members.wafoodcoalition.org/jobs/Details/washington-food-coalition-wfc-executive-director-283039>
- The Food Assistance Advisory Committee will be meeting in October.
- Red cards available to mail to your organization, simply request some.
- If you are bringing several staff members to the conference, please contact Trish, trish@wafoodcoalition.org, for a group discount.
- **Contact:**
 - Trish Twomey, Executive Director
 - trish@wafoodcoalition.org

Harvest Against Hunger – David Bobanick, Olivia Jackiewicz

- Harvest Vista, Washington Gleaning Network, Farm to Food Pantry, Farm to Food Bank grants. In Okanogan area. All works together.
- Rotary Hunger Relief Program, 10 grants, \$1000 each, through local rotary clubs.
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZKbBc37SnWnQRiq4h9DVSMFRJ_mplWlSoH5gUPowS1-3fxQ/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=118263131931168099457
 - Hope to increase rotary club involvement in hunger relief, hope for matching grants.
- Hunger Strike – statewide fundraiser event
 - <https://hungerstrike.events>
- Washington Food Conference
 - Grower Roundtable Session/Panel
 - Gleaning Session – Best Practice Manual
 - Farm to Food Pantry casual get-together
- Food System Roundtables later this year
- Gleaning Network Conference in the works
- Farm to Food Pantry
 - Participants: please invoice us for reimbursement
 - Reviewing sub agencies through the biennium
- **Comments:**
 - david@harvestagainsthunger.org if you have any questions about either of the Rotary fundraising events.
- **Contact info:**
 - David Bobanick
 - David@harvestagainsthunger.org

Advocacy Updates – Claire Lane, Aaron Czyzewski

- 10 year budget reconciliation passed (Federal)
- WIC is not an entitlement like school meals and needs to be appropriated each year. Reach out to your congressional office and tell them how important it is to fully fund WIC. The Presidential and House budget does not fully fund WIC but the Senate budget does.
- Brutal budget year. Congress blasted a hole in our state costs.
 - Cuts to SNAP and Medicaid.
 - Focusing on protecting what funding we have. Worried about funding being removed in the second year of the biennium.
 - New revenue for the biennium being considered.
- These are the final weeks of the August recess.
 - Please contact Claire if you had a meeting with a representative to share what was discussed.
- **Contact:**
 - Aaron Czyzewski, aaronc@foodlifeline.org (813) 503-3535
 - Claire Lane, Claire.Lane2@gmail.com (206) 446-0966
 - Craig Gibson, craigg@foodlifeline.org

Resiliency Grants – Britt Beug, WSDA FA

- Round 5 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)
 - **Final Budget \$14M** – applicants collectively requested over \$43M
 - Maximum award amount \$200k per organization (increased from \$150k last round)
 - Minimum award amount \$10k
 - Notification emails were sent Friday, August 15th
 - Please reach out if you didn't get one
 - Agreements are in progress
- **Comments:**
 - When can we learn who did get funded by Resiliency?
 - We notified apparent awardees last Friday, but do not have a final list of awardees at this time. Still some moving parts before we'll have a final list, so stand by!
 - Thanks! Will keep our eyes open.
- **Contact:**
 - foodassistancegrants@agr.wa.gov
 - [Resiliency Grants Webpage](#)

Food Updates – James Scovel, WSDA FA

- Food Update August 2025
- Bonus food added \$3M

Material	Material Description	# Cases/Truck	Delivery Period	Catalog Close Date	State Fair Share (Truckloads)
Fish					WA
110345	FISH AK PLCK FILLETS FRZ PKG-20/2 LB	950	11/1/2025 - 12/31/2026	8/21/2025	8
110850	FISH AK POLLOCK STICKS FRZ PKG-20/2 LB	950	11/1/2025 - 12/31/2026	8/21/2025	8
111280	FISH AK POLLOCK NUGGETS FRZ PKG-20/2 LB	950	11/1/2025 - 12/31/2026	8/21/2025	8
110390	CATFISH FLTS UNBRD RAW PKG-20/2 LB	950	11/1/2025 - 3/31/2026	8/21/2025	3
Fruit					WA
110561	APPLES FRESH PKG-12/3 LB	980	11/1/2025 - 1/31/2026	8/21/2025	41
110723	CRANBERRIES DRIED PKG-300/1.16 OZ	1,500	10/16/2025 - 3/31/2026	8/21/2025	8
Beans					WA
110020	BEANS BLACK CAN- 24/300	1,530	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2026	8/21/2025	5
111010	BLACK TURTLE BEANS DRY PKG- 12/2 LB	1,680	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2026	8/21/2025	10
100380	BEANS GREAT NORTHERN DRY PKG- 12/2 LB	1,680	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2026	8/21/2025	5
100384	BEANS DARK RED KIDNEY DRY PKG- 12/2 LB	1,680	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2026	8/21/2025	3
100385	BEANS LIGHT RED KIDNEY DRY PKG- 12/2 LB	1,680	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2026	8/21/2025	3
111032	BEANS NAVY DRY PKG- 12/2 LB	1,680	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2026	8/21/2025	2
110021	BEANS PINTO CAN- 24/300	1,680	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2026	8/21/2025	2
100382	BEANS PINTO DRY PKG- 12/2 LB	1,680	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2026	8/21/2025	10
100375	BEANS SMALL RED DRY- 12/2 LB	1,680	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2026	8/21/2025	2
					WA

Material	Material Description	# Cases/Truck	Delivery Period	Catalog Close Date	Price Per Truckload	State Fair Share (Truckloads)	
Fruit						WA	Total
110560	PEARS FRESH PKG- 12/3 LB	980	10/16/2025 - 12/31/2025	8/21/2025	\$28,044.07	11	11
111424	PEARS BARLETT FRESH CTN-40 LB	980			\$22,273.44	6	6
100225	PEARS DICED EX LT CAN 6/10	912			\$47,022.13		0
Order Bonus Totals (Dollar Value)						\$ 442,125.41	\$ 442,125.41
Remaining Bonus						\$ 2,874.59	

Value									
Program	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
TEFAP Bonus	\$ 6,497,702.21	\$ 15,795,336.17	\$ 20,088,478.41	\$ 11,211,664.44	\$ 16,850,336.08	\$ 18,196,577.37	\$ 21,393,170.65	\$ 3,118,369.38	
TEFAP Entitlement	\$ 5,329,664.29	\$ 2,613,860.13	\$ 7,116,081.21	\$ 6,367,615.95	\$ 7,633,534.31	\$ 7,255,203.81	\$ 8,679,904.93	\$ 1,134,073.09	
COSUP			\$ 6,735,401.38						
TMP	\$ 18,388,456.15	\$ 23,053,178.17	\$ 422,666.92						
CARES	\$	\$ 4,868,154.17	\$ 1,607,205.96						
FFCRA		\$ 1,733,546.35	\$ 4,752,970.20						
BBB				\$ 6,866,456.40	\$ 249,088.55				
CCC_TE					\$ 14,027,911.92	\$ 20,532,991.26	\$ 3,668,856.40	\$	-
DA				\$ 5,503,512.61					
	\$ 30,215,822.65	\$ 48,064,074.99	\$ 40,722,804.08	\$ 29,949,249.40	\$ 38,760,870.86	\$ 45,984,772.44	\$ 33,741,931.98	\$ 4,252,442.47	
The sum of 2019 to 2026						\$ 271,691,968.87			

Net Wt								
Program	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
TEFAP Bonus	8,062,936.00	17,053,549.50	16,654,300.00	6,059,715.60	10,637,871.00	14,571,411.50	16,913,677.50	2,355,260.00
TEFAP Entitlement	6,382,527.73	3,301,198.76	6,269,840.19	6,370,872.60	7,963,099.30	7,446,286.51	9,046,592.50	1,291,968.00
COSUP			5,393,831.38					
TMP	19,933,082.00	20,537,637.00	473,850.00					
CARES		4,255,889.00	2,302,267.28					
FFCRA		1,939,170.00	3,775,242.24					
BBB				5,168,976.00	232,800.00			
CCC_TE					8,809,141.50	13,618,646.00	2,337,207.40	0.00
DA				3,483,236.50	0.00			
	34,378,545.73	47,087,444.26	34,869,331.09	21,082,800.70	27,642,911.80	35,636,344.01	28,297,477.40	3,647,228.00
The sum of 2019 to 2026						232,642,082.99		

Average price per lb									
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
\$ 0.88	\$ 1.02	\$ 1.17	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.19	\$ 1.17		
Average price per LB 2019 - 2026						\$ 1.17			

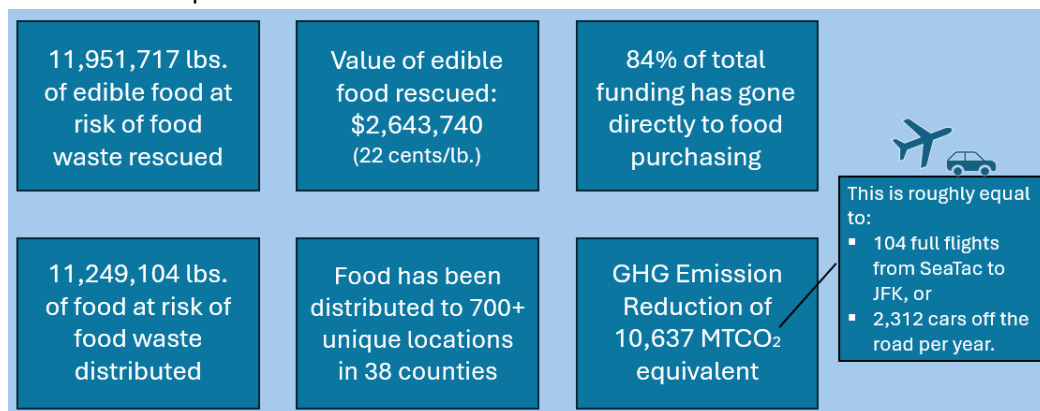
Rollover								
Program	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Previous Year Rollover	\$ (72,593.93)	\$ 64,988.78	\$ 2,842,570.65	\$ 1,370,668.44	\$ 740,343.44	\$ 321,195.58	\$ 1,156,615.77	\$ 1,193,695.84
Base Entitlement	\$ 5,467,247.00	\$ 5,391,442.00	\$ 5,644,179.00	\$ 5,737,290.95	\$ 7,214,386.45	\$ 8,090,624.00	\$ 8,716,985.00	\$ 5,737,290.95
Total Entitlement	\$ 5,394,653.07	\$ 5,456,430.78	\$ 8,486,749.65	\$ 7,107,959.39	\$ 7,954,729.89	\$ 8,411,819.58	\$ 9,873,600.77	\$ 6,930,986.79
Spent Entitlement	\$ 5,329,664.29	\$ 2,613,860.13	\$ 7,116,081.21	\$ 6,367,615.95	\$ 7,633,534.31	\$ 7,255,203.81	\$ 8,679,904.93	\$ 1,134,073.09
Remainder	\$ 64,988.78	\$ 2,842,570.65	\$ 1,370,668.44	\$ 740,343.44	\$ 321,195.58	\$ 1,156,615.77	\$ 1,193,695.84	\$ 5,796,913.70

- Food Order Work Group
 - September 5th 10:00-11:00am
 - We will be talking about Entitlement orders from Jan-Mar 2026

- **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>

WCDGP Wrap Up and SFY26 FRGP – Jeff Mathias and Elise Levesque, WSDA FA

- Review of WCDGP:
 - Procure Washington grown produce, grains, and proteins **otherwise at risk of ending up as food waste**, to be distributed to Washington hunger relief organizations.
 - Received \$3,151,945 through the Climate Commitment Act
 - Awarded 3 agencies to do this work:
 - EastWest Food Rescue
 - Feeding Washington
 - Northwest Harvest
 - 6 month program
 - Food purchasing began in February 2025
 - Food purchasing ended on June 30, 2025
 - Program will officially end on August 31, 2025
- Snapshot of WCDGP Impact



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- WCDGP paved the way for the Food Rescue Grant Program
 - State funded program to continue the food rescue/distribution work of WCDGP
 - \$4M has been awarded to the same three Lead Agencies for SFY26
 - Program similarities:
 - All food must be “at risk of becoming food waste”
 - All food must be produced and distributed in WA
 - 60% or more of funding must be spent on food
 - Program changes:
 - Less reporting requirements for Lead Agencies (not CCA funded)
 - 1 year program period, with option to extend through SFY27
 - Expanded product categories to include dairy

Recap & Upcoming Items – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- All SFY26 Agreements and Amendments have been issued, except for WFC and Resiliency Grants
- Preparing for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (FFY26)

- For our internal planning purposes only, we are estimating a reduction in TEFAP funding and food (20-25% estimate); there are still a lot of unknowns
- TEFAP, CSFP are federal Agreements and anticipate sending amendments out in late September for the FFY2026 – starts October 1, 2025
- Confirmed 400% poverty TEFAP eligibility – income guidelines will be updated with new data
- Removing TEFAP client intake address collection requirement – gathering input from TEFAP Lead Agencies on intake forms (this week or next)
- CSFP may continue into FFY26 and be phased out in FFY27
- Focus on reducing reporting and audit requirement - working with our legal team to finalize
 - Shift focus to required training as a means to reduce risk
- Federal Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Statement has been finalized at the federal level, working with legal team on the state nondiscrimination requirements
- Heads-up that we will be doing amendments over the next month for state and federal programs.
- **Comments**
 - Any concerns or ideas regarding the address rule conflict between EFAP and TEFAP?
 - We'll be clarifying that more as we roll out the form, but address is already not required to be collected for EFAP
 - It would be helpful to have a collection of data requirements in a side by side format for tefap and efap to share with partners.
 - Love that suggestion.

Office Hours & Trainings – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- LFPA
 - Quarterly open office hours: TBD
 - Quarterly reports due July 20th
 - Farm to Community Team
 - Contact Jeff Mathias – jeff.mathias@agr.wa.gov
- Lead Agency – Core Programs
 - 1st Tuesday of the month, 9:30-10:30am
 - Q&A, info sharing, problem solving
 - Contact your Regional Representative
- Resiliency Grant
 - Open Office Hours TBD
 - Contact Erin Kester or Britt Beug – foodassistancegrants@agr.wa.gov
- Food Order Work Group Meeting
 - September 5th 10:00-11:00am
 - Contact: James Scovel – jscovel@agr.wa.gov, 360-725-5641 or John Carney – john.carney@agr.wa.gov, 360-485-1258

Upcoming:

- Lead Agency Check-In Meeting
 - Friday, September 5th 9:00-10:00am
- Washington Food Coalition Conference
 - September 17-19th in Kennewick
- General Focus Check-In Meeting
 - Tuesday, September 23rd 9:00-10:00am