

General Focus Check-In Meeting – September 23, 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. Questions posed in chat will be responded verbally unless the information is already public knowledge.

Washington Food Coalition Conference – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- It was great to see so many of you at the conference and to celebrate Trish before her retirement.
- We appreciated all the honest feedback during the conference, good or “bad” all feedback is helpful and greatly appreciated.

WSDA Focus on Food – Katie Rains

- Reminder that WSDA does not have additional requests of the legislature.
- Thank you for sharing information with WSDA at the conference. Our role is to gather information from the agencies about how the federal policy changes impact your communities and to get that information shared with legislators.
- WSDA is discussing the changes in USDA with policy makers.
- We are thankful for your partnership.
- **Contact:**
 - Katie Rains, Director of Food Systems Initiatives
 - krains@agr.wa.gov; 360-688-4549

Washington Food Coalition – Trish Twomey, Kyla Tucker

- The conference was a lot of work, we appreciate everyone who attended and hope everyone enjoyed their time and learned a lot.
- Reminder that Trish Twomey is retiring at the end of the calendar year, a replacement will hopefully be hired by November.
- Training on de-escalation is coming soon.
- **Comments:**
 - Great job, Trish! Thank you for all your efforts!
 - We haven't opened registration for the de-escalation training quite yet but will be including that with our next email communication.
- **Contact:**
 - Trish Twomey, Executive Director
 - trish@wafoodcoalition.org

Harvest Against Hunger – David Bobanick, Olivia Jackiewicz

- Excellent conference. Very interesting, good information shared at the Connecting the Dots session on Friday. Would like Harvest Against Hunger to be more involved next time.
- Nice to meet everyone face to face, looking forward to incorporating all the things we learned at the conference into policies.
- Hunger Distribution Work Group Call on the second Wednesday of the month, contact David for an invite. The next meeting will be October 8th at 9:00am.

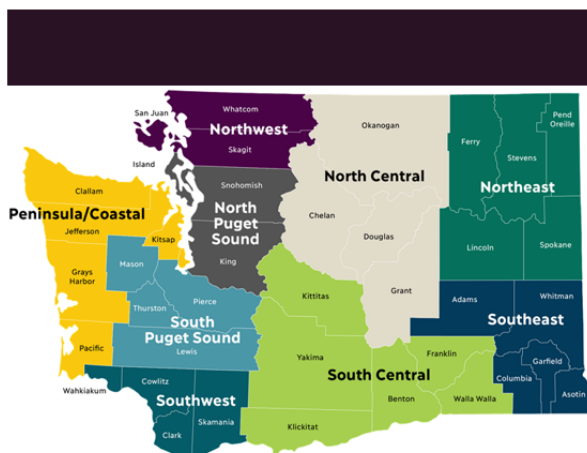
- Food System Roundtable Discussions later this year, working with Jose Garza to add additional counties beyond King County.
- Cohort meeting Oct 7th.
- Washington Gleaning Network annual conference 2026 at Hopelink in East Seattle. More info coming soon.
- **Comments:**
 - Thank you, David, for all your work and help!
- **Contact info:**
 - David Bobanick
 - David@harvestagainsthunger.org

Advocacy Updates – Claire Lane, Aaron Czyzewski

- [USDA Press Release](#)
- USDA announced they are no longer doing their annual food insecurity report due to the studies being used to fearmonger. Those reports tell us in detail who is being affected by hunger and where.
 - State legislature is already asking about it.
 - We (WA) have good data to use (WA Food Study) on low-income communities but not population wide data.
 - Now that SNAP is cut, no data will be gathered to cover the impacts of that cut.
- Federal Fiscal Year begins October 1st and Politico is reporting a 70% chance of government shutdown.
 - Meeting between the President and Senator Schumer and Minority Leader Jeffries was cancelled.
 - Democrats and Republicans are asking for restoration of budget cuts or extensions for previous funding of HR-1 for Healthcare, Medicaid, and Medicaid premium tax credits.
 - The House and Senate have passed some of their appropriations bills. 12 bills get bundled to make the budget, which then needs House and Senate approval, which is far from being done.
 - The House's continuing resolution would go through mid-November (extension to current budget).
 - The House wants a clean continuing resolution, but that would prevent WIC from covering additional participants.
 - Shout out to all the food banks who signed the national letter asking to fully fund WIC. Washington organizations really showed up. WA Congressman Newhouse is on the Ag Committee, Congresswoman Perez is on the Appropriations Subcommittee for Ag and Patty Murray is the lead ranking member on appropriations, so it was nice to have a strong showing.
- DSHS is working on communications for clients and partner organizations regarding SNAP. Will share the communication with Kim and Trish and ask to be pushed out to the hunger relief system.
- There will be no impact to SNAP benefits in October if there is a shutdown.
- [Sign on letter for SNAP](#). There is a bill to repeal all SNAP cuts and push the negotiations to the Farm Bill.
 - Now is the time to speak up. This bill is important strategically and we need to have another strong showing from our state.
 - The Farm Bill is overdue to be reauthorized in full, and Democrats are saying they will not negotiate a Farm Bill unless there is a reversal of SNAP cuts.
 - Please contact your congressman and Congressman Newhouse and encourage them to sign the bill as a cosponsor.
- State level quarterly economic forecast this afternoon.

- Agencies have submitted their decision packages.
- WSDA didn't submit a decision package as we received a lot last session for the biennium.
- DSHS is asking for additional staff/IT/funding to respond to the SNAP cuts to their budget.
- Representative Reeves, the new House Ag chair, introduced HB-1987: a statewide response to hunger and would ask WSDA to take the lead on coordination. Rep Reeves is hosting meetings to build a comprehensive food security plan.
 - Sept 25th 11am, Rep Reeves will be at Food Lifeline to talk about it ([link to RSVP](#)).
- To get updates from Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition, [sign up here](#).
- **Comments:**
 - "The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the termination of future Household Food Security Reports. These redundant, costly, politicized, and extraneous studies do nothing more than fear monger. For 30 years, this study – initially created by the Clinton administration as a means to support the increase of SNAP eligibility and benefit allotments – failed to present anything more than subjective, liberal fodder. Trends in the prevalence of food insecurity have remained virtually unchanged, regardless of an over 87% increase in SNAP spending between 2019-2023. USDA will continue to prioritize statutory requirements and where necessary, use the bevy of more timely and accurate data sets available to it."
 - And create dependency on government programs!
 - READ THE NEWS!
 - Commodity Supplemental Food Program (for seniors) is very small, but it is essential. There are more people eligible for it than we have funding and it looks like we will lose caseload in 2026.
 - See National CSFP Association Impact Summary
 - Regarding the possible government shutdown: TEFAP and CSFP do not shutdown. Expenditures will be limited to 1/12 of annual funding. Will cover more details at the Lead Agency meeting.
- **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 – Erin Kester, WSDA FA



Region	Awards	Allocation
Peninsula/Coastal	8	\$ 925,625.58
North Puget Sound	32	\$ 4,508,269.85
Northwest	5	\$ 762,413.43
Northeast	11	\$ 1,431,582.41
North Central	5	\$ 688,527.24
South Puget Sound	17	\$ 2,379,854.57
Southwest	11	\$ 1,191,955.22
South Central	14	\$ 1,823,288.32
Southeast	2	\$ 288,483.38
Total	105	\$ 14,000,000.00

*Organization names and award amounts will be posted on our website after awards have been finalized

- Round 5 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)
 - Agreements coming soon

- Retroactive to July 1, 2025
- Pending final legal review of nondiscrimination language
- Make sure to submit the revised Financial Capabilities Questionnaire (09/2025 version) via email – we are required to have this prior to entering into an Agreement.
- **Contact:**
 - foodassistancegrants@agr.wa.gov
 - [Resiliency Grants Webpage](#)

Preliminary 2025 Data, Reminders, New Core Program Region Map – Kyle Merslich & Mallorie Shellmer, WSDA FA

- EFAP Preliminary Data

EFAP & EFAP-Tribal Food Pantry Data	SFY15	SFY16	SFY24	SFY25
Total Client Visits (New & Returning)	8,482,299	8,224,133	13,383,723	14,181,700
New Clients	1,260,963	1,225,165	2,207,948	2,251,028
Returning Clients	7,221,336	6,998,968	11,175,775	11,930,672
Total New Families Served	457,407	443,756	802,575	821,367
Average # of Visits Per Client Per Year (Visits/New Clients)	6.73	6.71	6.06	6.30
Pounds of Food Distributed	139,272,915	138,451,384	230,650,884	237,285,498

-
- Waiting for final submissions, expect the numbers to increase
- EFAP – Tribal Preliminary Data

EFAP-Tribal Voucher Program Data	SFY15	SFY16	SFY24	SFY25
Total Client Vouchers (New & Returning)	19,258	18,143	11,940	12,792
New Client Vouchers	8,508	9,167	4,091	4,923
Returning Client Vouchers	10,750	8,976	7,849	7,869
Total New Households	3,461	3,434	1,634	1,956
Average # of Vouchers Per Client Per Year (Vouchers/New Clients)	2.26	1.98	2.92	2.60
Total Tribal Enrollment	*	*	73,891	73,891
Number of Tribal members that received a voucher "One In..."	*	*	1 in 20	1 in 15

-
- Voucher programs tend to fluctuate year by year, huge round of applause to the tribes and the work they did this past year.
- Data will be posted online when finalized and announced on the [What's New page](#).

- TEFAP & CSFP FFY26 Updated Price List and Inventory
 - New Price List
 - Contact James if you need a new list before Oct. 1: James.scovel@agr.wa.gov.
 - Posted on FA Website by Oct. 1.
 - [CSFP | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)
 - [TEFAP | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)
 - TEFAP & CSFP Inventory Report
 - Will incorporate the updated price list
 - Available Oct 1
 - [CSFP Forms | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)
 - [TEFAP Forms | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)
 - Language changes for consistency
 - Regional Representatives will send email notification when available.
- TEFAP & CSFP Reviews
 - Reviews are almost complete.
 - Thanks to those being reviewed.
 - Lead & Sub Agencies are doing incredible work.
 - Regional Representatives finishing up final compliance reviews this week/next week.
 - Review Follow-Ups:
 - Lead Agency – EFAP/TEFAP/CSFP
 - Required Follow-up: work directly with Food Assistance Regional Representative to complete all follow-up.
 - Sub Agency – TEFAP/CSFP
 - Required Follow-up: work directly with Lead Agency to complete all follow-up.
- FA Regional Representative Map Update



Mallorie Shellmer
FA Specialist Supervisor
360-515-6496
Mallorie.Shellmer@agr.wa.gov

Heidi Cobun
FA Specialist
360-688-4749
Heidi.Cobun@agr.wa.gov

Mike Hatada
FA Specialist
360-819-6582
Mike.Hatada@agr.wa.gov

Nichole Garden
FA Specialist
360-972-5947
Nichole.Garden@agr.wa.gov

Sarah Benner-Kenagy
FA Specialist
360-628-2821
Sarah.Benner@agr.wa.gov

-
- Assigning new representatives.

- Thank you for your patience as we transitioned Erin Kester to Resiliency Grants and onboarded new representatives.

Budget Recap & General Updates – Kim Eads & Andrea Litzow, WSDA FA

- SFY 2026 State Budget Buckets

State Funding Pass-through	2026 - Ongoing Only	2026 - New Only
EFAP	\$ -	\$ 25,600,000.00
EFAP - Tribal	\$ -	\$ 2,700,416.00
Farm 2 Food Pantry	\$ -	\$ 800,000.00
LFPA Gap	\$ 160,000.00	\$ -
TEFAP/CSFP - State Bridge Funds	\$ 10,519,200.00	\$ -
Resiliency Grants	\$ -	\$ 14,000,000.00
Food Rescue Grant Program	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ -
WFC	\$ 260,000.00	\$ -
Misc. Grants	\$ 65,000.00	\$ -
Total	\$ 15,004,200.00	\$ 43,100,416.00

- Pass-through to organizations by program.
- Here is what you can expect beyond the unknowns!
 - Funding Impacts: Stable state funding, less federal funding, and increasing client need – caution secondary impacts.
 - Reduce Regulations: Simplify
 - Increased Outreach and Communications
 - Continued Improvements
 - Planning for the “next” biennium starts NOW!
 - Improvements are informed by Community Engagement efforts.
- Food Assistance Community Engagement Strategies with Andrea Litzow
 - Ongoing Community Engagement Efforts
 - Host monthly meetings.
 - Available for one-on-one meetings.
 - Feedback loops to share feedback gathered.
 - Thank you to all who shared feedback at the conference.
 - Appreciate all who filled out comment form.
 - Will be gathering that data and consider next steps.
 - Sixth wave of Washington State Food Security Surveys (WAFOOD).
 - What food insecurity looks like.
 - Tentative survey launch: Jan/Feb 2026.
 - Regional stakeholder engagement for FA program improvements.
 - Tentative timeline:
 - Active engagement: Jan-June 2026.
 - Evaluate feedback and share outcomes: July 2026-Mar 2027.
 - Implement program improvements in 2027-2029 State Biennium.
- Document Updates
 - Reducing TEFAP requirements.
 - Hoping to make a one page crosswalk of all the programs.
- FAAC invites sent, ask FA for invite.
- If needed, FA will schedule additional meetings during the holiday break.
- Changes take time, please continue to email or call and mention topics you want covered, changes you want to see, even if you don’t see instantaneous results.

- **Comments**

- Thanks for the data. It doesn't add up to \$93M though. Where is the rest of the money?
 - \$93M is the biennial total. This table only shows one year's pass-through funding, it doesn't show administrative costs or the transportation/storage costs of distributing food.
 - Half, or one year of the new funding is \$46,625,000. Kim showed the total of \$43,100,416, which is the pass-through amount in SFY26.

Office Hours & Trainings – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- LFPA
 - Quarterly open office hours: TBD
 - 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, 9:30-10:30am
 - Q&A, info sharing, problem solving
 - Contact Mallorie Shellmer – mallorie.shellmer@agr.wa.gov
- Resiliency Grant
 - Open Office Hours TBD
 - Contact Erin Kester – foodassistancegrants@agr.wa.gov
- Food Order Work Group Meeting
 - TBD
 - Contact: James Scovel – jscovel@agr.wa.gov or John Carney – john.carney@agr.wa.gov

Upcoming:

- Lead Agency Check-In Meeting
 - Friday, October 3rd 9:00-10:00am
- General Focus Check-In Meeting (last one for 2025)
 - Tuesday, October 21st 9:00-10:00am
- Food Assistance Advisory Committee (FAAC) Meeting
 - Thursday, October 23rd 1:00-2:30pm
- Lead Agency Check-In Meeting (last one for 2025)
 - Friday, November 7th 9:00-10:00am