COVID-19 Check-In Meeting Notes  
Tuesday January 18, 2022

Participants: ~44

Agenda

Schedule: Tuesday – General Focus Meeting – Once per Month

Updates:
WSDA Focus on Food – Katie Rains; We Feed Washington & DP Update
Washington Food Coalition – Trish Twomey
Harvest Against Hunger – David Bobanick
Advocacy Update – Aaron Czyzewski & Claire Lane

Presentation:
Bonney Lake Food Bank aka The Market – Stacey Crnich

FA Updates:
Reminder TEFAP Risk Assessments due March 21st; $5.4 Million in Disaster Household Distribution TEFAP food April-June; TEFAP Budget Risks & Offsets; Legislative Update – Capacity/Flexible Funding, USDA TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grant, USDA Grant Local Purchasing

Next Mtgs.:
Wednesday – January 26th, 9:00 am FAAC & WFC Board Mtg. 10:30 am
Friday – February 4th, 9:00 am – Contractor Only
Monday – February 7th, Hunger Action Day
Tuesday – February 15th, 9:00 am – General Focus

WSDA Focus on Food – Katie Rains

We feed WA Pilot Food Updates
- 26 Contractors ranging from produce companies, to family farms, to NGOs
- Like USDA program, food is low-barrier: no intake requirements or means testing
- Food safety standards, from produce safety to retail food code compliance, have increased and monitoring site visits are underway
- WSDA is assessing impacts of current program model and making modifications to improve impact, coordination and food access in Year 2
- Current appropriation for Year 2 of Pilot – which is only funded for the SFY22-SFY23 biennium – is $18M; a competitive RFP will open in April 2022
- Food System Assessments from UW and BIPOC leadership team are available: https://agr.wa.gov/about-wsda/focus-on-food
- **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

**Decision Package Updates**
- WSDA submitted 2 Decision Packages to the Governor’s Office for consideration in the supplemental budget process:
  - Food Assistance Capacity (Flexible) Funding
  - We Feed WA Enhanced Funding
- After evaluation of rising costs across the supply chain, including:
  - Labor
  - Freight
  - Food Costs
- We increased our request 25%, ↑ to $74.8M for the same level of service

**Legislative Update – Governor’s Budget – Katie Rains**

2021-23 Supplemental Budget Session – We Feed Washington Decision Package (DP) Amendment

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<tr>
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<th>Original DP Request</th>
<th>Additional DP Request</th>
<th>Total Revised DP Request</th>
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<tr>
<td>SFY22 Total</td>
<td>$25,435</td>
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<td>SFY23 Total</td>
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*Additional funds requested for SFY22 in anticipation of early action bill and/or expedient budget process.

**WFC Updates – Trish Twomey**
- In person conference will be 4/21 & 4/22 in Wenatchee. More info by Friday
  - Presenting the Fresh Results Award
    - HAH has offered a $1,000 cash award
    - Nomination form is in the WFC newsletter
- FA Advisory Committee meets 1/26 @ 9am followed by the WFC board meeting
  - Links in the newsletter
- WFC has rolled out the 2nd phase of its accident prevention program with L&I and is an on demand training for organizations. The latest training is on food safety. The next one will be on ergonomics.
Harvest Against Hunger Updates – David Bobanick
- Small capacity grant applications for round two have closed. There were 50 requests totaling $225,000. Working on deciding awardees. Will be reaching out soon.
- Also working on F2FP for the next fiscal year.

Advocacy Updates – Claire Lane & Aaron Czyzewski
- We’re in a supplemental 60 day legislative session. You can stream on tvw.org.
  - A couple of bills to highlight is for extending free school lunches HB-1878 & SB-5798
  - Also HB-1833 creates a statewide multi-lingual tool for school meal applications
- If your organization is working on a capital budget, please let David Uhl with Feeding Washington know as he is tracking these requests and providing technical assistance.
- Basic needs allowance for active duty military was increased.
- DOD is now required to study food insecurity, which should result in improvements for military families in need.

Special Presentation – Stacey Crnich, Bonney Lake Food Bank/The Market
- In December of 2020, they bought a farm in east Pierce county and have turned it into a new concept food pantry to resemble a market. They aim for a relaxed shopping atmosphere and experience for their guests and staff.
- DIGNITY . EQUITY . ACCESS . COMMUNITY . We believe at The Market puts dignity, equity, and access in motion for all to experience and is a proof of concept that this model can not only be successful, but change how a community views food insecurity AND our community members receiving food resource.
- One key slide states; “We believe that shame surrounding food banking, can be erased with simple and human focused innovation...and a willingness to design systems and spaces that think the most of human beings and not the worst. We believe that our customer's experience is as nourishing as the food.”
- They have places to sit and relax, children to color or play with toys.
- They partner with a local microgreens farmer (right next door) to provide highly nutritious microgreens especially for seniors.
- The Market also focuses on featuring culturally relevant recipes based on available foods as well as providing spices.
- They have been able to purchase fresh, protein-rich, local foods to provide high nutrition at The Market.
- Several of these types of projects were funded with WSDA grant funding.
- Go to www.bonneylakefoodbank.org to sign up for their newsletter “The Table”.
- Our thanks to Stacey for sharing this story – powerful and inspirational!
*The whole slide presentation is included in our presentation link, but a few key images are below.

We renovated on a budget and repurposed materials, with a focus on bright open space and elevated design details.
Legislative Update

- We’ve done some significant rounds of grants via flexible funding which has not only allowed for infrastructure improvements/equipment, but other projects including local purchasing, making connections, and making improvements.

- We worked with HAH and UW to identify capacity needs, and their final survey report should be out soon – over $81 million in identified need over the next 2-years. Our original supplemental funding request was not enough so we requested additional funding which was included in the Governor’s budget. We had $500k targeted for SFY22, so if there’s not that early action bill, then that may change the total funding request total. The SFY22 funding would have been designated for assessments, studies and further research.

| 2021-23 Supplemental Budget Session – WSDA Food Assistance Capacity Decision Package (DP) Amendment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dollars in Thousands | Original DP Request | Additional DP Request | Total Revised DP Request |
| Total SFY22 | $3,675 | $500 | $4,175 |
| Total SFY23 | $3,675 | $13,450 | $17,125 |
| TOTAL | $3,675 | $13,950 | $17,625 |

*Additional funds requested for SFY22 in anticipation of early action bill and/or expedient budget process.

- 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

TEFAP Risk Assessment & TEFAP Budget

- Due 3/21/22
- TEFAP provides operational funding and food resources. We also received replacement TEFAP foods ($5.4 M) from the Disaster Household Distribution that we ran during the start of COVID. This food will be coming into the system in April, May, and June. It does not come with operational funding to cover some of the distribution costs.
- The FFY 2022 TEFAP federal budget has still not been finalized, but it’s looking like there will not be an increase in “regular” TEFAP funding at the national level. WA state did better than some other states on unemployment/poverty rates, which made our “slice of the pie” smaller. We are working hard to try to make up ~$500k-$600k for that cut and do not plan to reduce the FFY22 pass-through funding. We are extremely concerned
with next year’s budget (FFY23) if funding levels are not significantly increased or new supports are not added like the Build Back Better funding.

TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grant Round 1
- USDA Status – RFA released; Competitive Bid; Due February 4, 2022:
- Amount of WA funding in Round 1: $917,968 (2-yr period) less 10% = $827,000 Available
- TEFAP State Agency Applies for Grant
- Purpose of funding: Helping food assistance organizations meet TEFAP requirements, strengthen infrastructure, and expand TEFAP’s reach into underserved communities. Part of Build Back Better.
  • Expand TEFAP’s reach into remote, rural, Tribal, and/or low-income areas that are underserved by the program. Underserved areas are defined as those in which TEFAP foods are not easily accessible to all eligible populations as determined by the State agency.
  • Activities should be informed by relevant data and/or the expert advice of program stakeholders – Meetings held 1/7/22 & 1/11/22; Result targeted approach based on risk factors, including health disparities. Identified 14 eligible TEFAP Contractors w/9 able to participate in Round 1.
- Round 1 = 9 TEFAP Contractors: Blue Mountain Action Council; CACLMT-Thurston County Food Bank; Chelan-Douglas CAC; FISH Community Food Bank – Ellensburg; Okanogan CAC; Olympic CAP; OIC of Washington – Yakima; Rural Resources; Washington Gorge Action Programs.
- Round 2 = We are guessing that this may be released sometime between August and December.

USDA Local Purchasing Cooperative Grant
- We’ve reached out to our Tribal contractors as part of this grant will go directly to federally recognized tribes and they can apply directly to USDA. If a tribe does not apply directly with USDA then we will stand ready to assist.
- USDA Status – RFA released:
  • Amount of WA funding: $7.2 million for Washington State (2-yr period)
    • $4,320,000 - Targeted for State Agency
    • $2,880,000 – Targeted for Federally Recognized Tribes
- Purpose of funding: Primary – Purchase local foods (fresh/processed); supporting local, regional, and socially disadvantaged farmers/producers through the purchase of food; strengthening relationships between farmers/producers and hunger relief community (lasting impact); and ensure distribution of fresh and nutritious foods in rural, remote, or underserved communities.
- Next Steps:
• WSDA developing strategies – in process; may include some pass-through for local purchasing
• FA – gathering input; draft proposals; tribal outreach; timing of other grants & fresh foods
• Outreach and stakeholder engagement – managing expectations

Thank you everyone!