Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Food Assistance (FA) is excited to announce the opening of the Resiliency Grants applications on April 18th.

To help address the critical needs of hunger relief organizations across Washington, WSDA Food Assistance (FA) is opening the Resiliency Grants Program with potentially over $16 million in funding to eligible hunger relief organizations across the State – including those not currently contracted with Food Assistance (FA).

The Resiliency Grants Program is funded through the State Legislature and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery fund, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, in response to COVID-19. This program also contributes to WSDA’s ongoing Focus on Food Initiative, which focuses on strengthening Washington’s food system at the regional level and ensuring safe, nutritious food is effectively produced and distributed throughout our state. The design of Resiliency Grants and Initiatives was informed by a diverse advisory Committee.

**Funding priorities.** This funding will prioritize:

- Recommendations of the [Capacity Survey & Report](#)
- BIPOC-led organizations, and organizations with BIPOC-strong partnerships
- Rural, less dense regions and underserved communities
- Statewide representation

**Funding objectives.** Through this program, WSDA will support the work of eligible hunger relief organizations (meal programs, food banks, food pantries, delivery programs, and more) in response to COVID-19, and fund projects that target the following funding objectives:

- Collaborations – To implement and/or strengthen regional systems; may include new county partnerships, interregional collaboration, and food hubs.
- Local purchasing – To strengthen local systems, invest in local businesses and local agriculture.
- Service operation efficiencies and expanded capacity – To support staffing, equipment, capital improvement projects, and other vital resources needed to continue and expand services as needed.
- Client experience enhancement – To support equity, client choice models, home and expanded delivery options, increased client access, culturally relevant foods, as well as software, translation, and other concepts or innovations that improve the client experience.

**Funds will be awarded under the following categories:**

1. Equipment and installation costs up to $4,999.99 – through our valued partnership with Harvest Against Hunger, up to $400,000 worth of eligible equipment and installation projects will be funded.
2. Contracted hunger relief organizations – at least 30% of awards will be to organizations who participate in WSDA Food Assistance programs.
3. Regional Distribution Organizations (RDOs) – at least 20% of awards will be to organizations qualifying as RDOs with projects related to those functions (see definitions).
4. Hunger relief organizations not currently contracted with WSDA FA – at least 30% of awards will be to organizations who do not currently participate in WSDA Food Assistance programs.

*These percentages are subject to change to meet funding priorities and based on final applications.*
Awards may range from under $5,000 (up to $4,999.99 for equipment and installation costs only) to over $100,000. For $5,000 and over projects, there is not a maximum project size limit. Please note that some applicants may be offered a partial award.

The contract period is July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Additional information including definitions and eligibility requirements at agr.wa.gov/grants > Food Assistance Grants > Resiliency Grants.

Applications will be translated into the following languages: Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Somali, Korean, Chinese Mandarin, Tagalog. If other languages and other documents require translation, please contact foodassistancegrants@agr.wa.gov.