

Emergency Food Assistance Program

CLOSEOUT REPORT: State Fiscal Year 2018



Photo Credit: U.S. Department of Agriculture and Zachary D. Lyons / WA State Department of Agriculture



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and Consumer Services Division
Food Assistance

AGR PUB 609-438 (R/11/18)

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WSDA FOOD ASSISTANCE OVERVIEW

Through service, regulation, and advocacy, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) supports the viability and vitality of agriculture while protecting consumers, public health, and the environment. Food Assistance (FA) is part of the Food Safety and Consumer Services Division which plays an active role in defending the availability, safety, and integrity of our food supply.

WSDA's FA programs serve food insecure families by providing food, funding, logistics services and outreach to hunger relief providers and tribes. Through active engagement and strong partnerships, we strengthen the emergency food system, improve access to nutritious and safe foods, and ensure regulatory compliance, while honoring our connections with agriculture. Our advisory committee is part of the Washington Food Coalition and plays a critical role in developing coordinated, responsive, and strategic solutions to the issue of hunger in our state.

In 2018, WSDA's FA programs provided approximately \$23 million worth of state and federal food and funding to support 500 food banks, food pantries, meal programs, tribes, and tribal organizations. Our programs include the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), EFAP Tribal, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP) Initiative.

One in six Washingtonians (1.15 million people) received food from emergency food providers that were supported with resources from our programs.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CLOSEOUT REPORT

Food banks, food pantries, backpack programs, home delivery, mobile food pantries and voucher programs that participate in EFAP comprise our most comprehensive “snapshot” of Washington State’s emergency food system. In order to receive EFAP funding, participating agencies must report client and food distribution figures monthly, and at the end of the state fiscal year, provide a closeout report summarizing their annual impact. For our purposes, a food bank is considered an agency that collects, warehouses, and distributes food, commodities or other product to food pantries, meal programs and other hunger relief organizations on a regional, county, or statewide basis. A food pantry is an emergency food assistance program that distributes unprepared food without charge to its clients. This report focuses on food pantries, and tribal voucher programs, where hungry people in our state are directly benefitting from emergency food resources.

The pounds of food and client visit metrics reported by emergency food providers are used to assess the scope of need and understand trends within the emergency food system as a whole on a year-over-year basis. Large food bank networks and small food pantries alike use these figures because they tell an important story about hunger in our state. And, because this data is available for every county, it allows us to hone in on local challenges and opportunities, while also seeing it as a whole statewide emergency food system. However, as stakeholders in the emergency food system know, these figures still have limitations and may not tell the full story.

As the emergency food system becomes more efficient and continues to place more emphasis on healthier foods, measuring changes within the system and their effects on clients will be important. Agencies are beginning to identify more nuanced metrics that will help to evaluate the impact of these changes in the emergency food system more holistically. For example, new metrics may include regular reporting on good food that was rescued and diverted from a landfill, or about the nutritional density of the foods provided.

We are privileged to work with thousands of dedicated emergency food providers, staff, volunteers and community partners who are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors struggling to put nutritious food on the table. Without their commitment to providing quality data we would not be able to assemble this statewide snapshot year after year.



Photo Credit: U.S. Department of Agriculture

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOOD PANTRY CLOSEOUT RESULTS

FOOD PANTRY OPERATIONS

Washington State food banks and pantries, including tribal food pantries, received a total of \$4,966,534 in state funding from EFAP in state fiscal year 2018 to help provide 143.18 million pounds of food to 1.15 million Washingtonians struggling to put food on the table. EFAP food pantry dollars supported the distribution of a pound of food last year for an incredibly low average cost of only 3 cents.

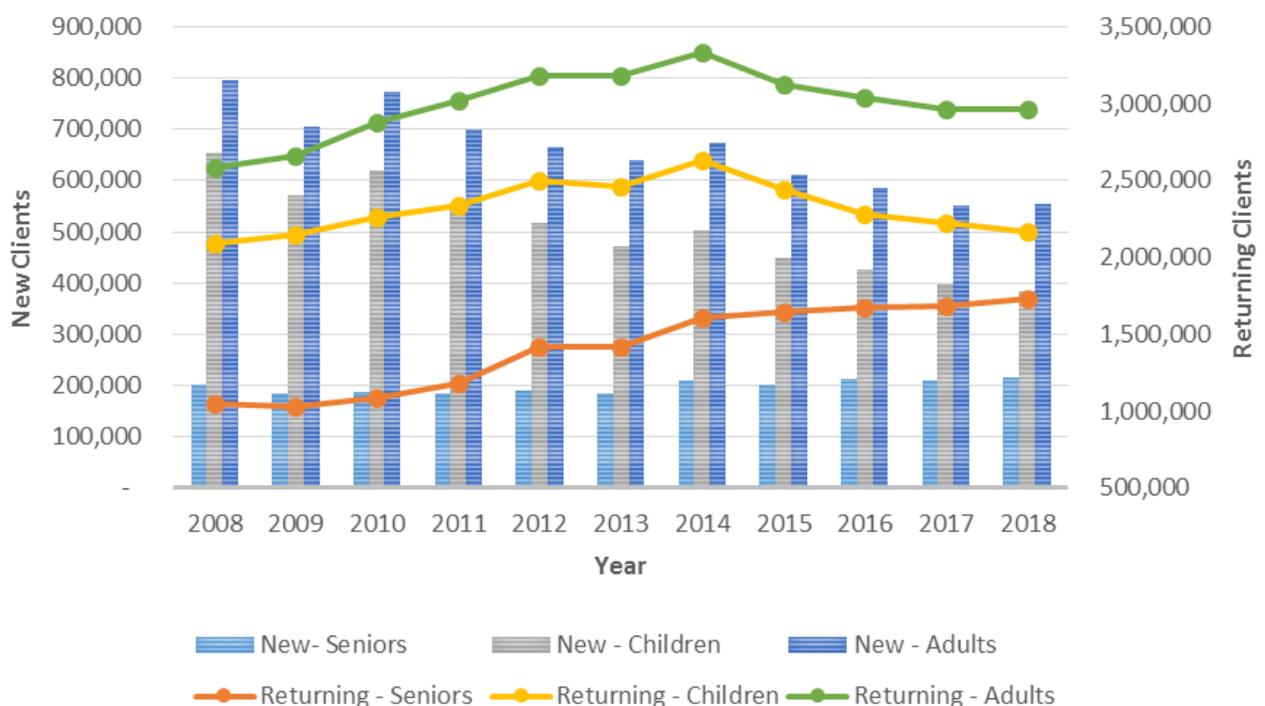
89% JUST OVER 89 PERCENT OF EFAP FUNDING WAS SPENT DIRECTLY ON FOOD OR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.

11% LESS THAN 11 PERCENT OF EFAP FUNDING WENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE OR INDIRECT EXPENSES.

Of the \$4.97 million dollars of EFAP funding allocated to non-tribal organizations, only 11 percent went to administrative or indirect costs, an almost identical rate to FY2017. Approximately 40 percent was spent on direct food purchases. The remaining 49 percent was spent on costs associated with operating food programs such as storage, transportation, food repackaging, gleaning, equipment, employee salaries and benefits, supplies, and utilities. The EFAP funds do not cover all costs, but they are an essential foundation for food banks and pantries in providing food to families in need.

The total number of times clients received emergency food in FY2018 dropped by just over 13,000 from the previous year, but the need remained deep, with average annual visits per client reaching an all-time high of 6.96.

NEW AND RETURNING CLIENTS BY AGE



FOOD PANTRY CLIENT VISIT DEMOGRAPHICS

New clients: The number of people using food pantries in FY2018 was 1.15 million as compared to 1.16 million in FY2017. This represents a slight decrease of 0.8 percent.

1.15M 1.15 MILLION WASHINGTONIANS USED AN EFAP FOOD PANTRY.

8.01M WASHINGTONIANS VISITED AN EFAP FOOD PANTRY OVER 8.01 MILLION TIMES.

Returning clients: The number of returning clients was essentially flat, dropping by just 0.06 percent compared with last year. Despite the overall decrease, the number of returning adults (18-54) and seniors (55 and older), actually rose.

TOTAL CLIENT VISITS



Total client visits: The total number of visits (new plus returning clients) in FY2018 was basically flat compared to the year before. Food pantries saw a 0.17 percent decrease from 8.02 million last year to 8.01 million this year. Washington’s emergency food system met the needs of a staggering two million more annual client visits compared to FY2007 pre-recession figures.

7X THE AVERAGE CLIENT VISITED A FOOD PANTRY NEARLY 7 TIMES LAST YEAR.

9X THE AVERAGE SENIOR VISITED A FOOD PANTRY JUST OVER 9 TIMES.

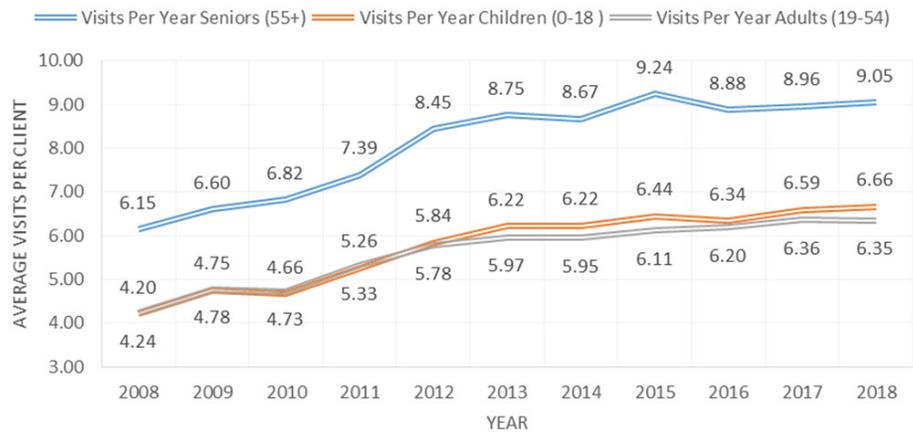
Visits per client: Although there was a small drop in total client visits, those who did rely on their community food pantry did so at an all-time high of 6.96 times per year as compared to 6.91 times in

FY2017. This figure continues to edge upward each year. Greater analysis is needed to determine if this is because of deeper client need, improved access, or both. However, regardless of the reason, for the past decade clients have increased the frequency with which they visit pantries while receiving more food per visit. The need continues to grow.

It is important to note that seniors demonstrated a greater need than the general population. Seniors visited food pantries more often, by nearly 50 percent, for an average of 9.05 times per year.

The fact that those using food pantries averaged nearly 2 visits more per year as compared with a decade ago, seems to indicate that, even with the improving economy and fewer people needing help, those who still need help putting food on the table are struggling more than ever, especially Washington’s senior population. For many, a monthly visit to an emergency food provider occurs out of necessity.

VISITS PER YEAR BY AGE GROUP



PERCENT OF CHANGE BY AGE GROUP: TOTAL VISITS 2017 TO 2018

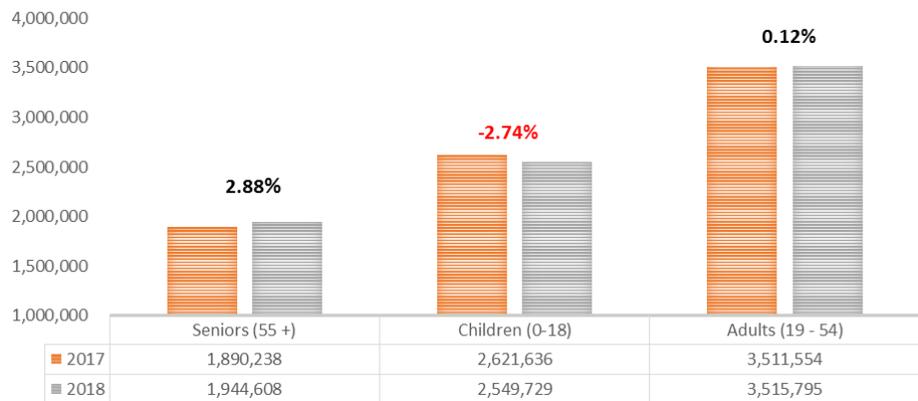


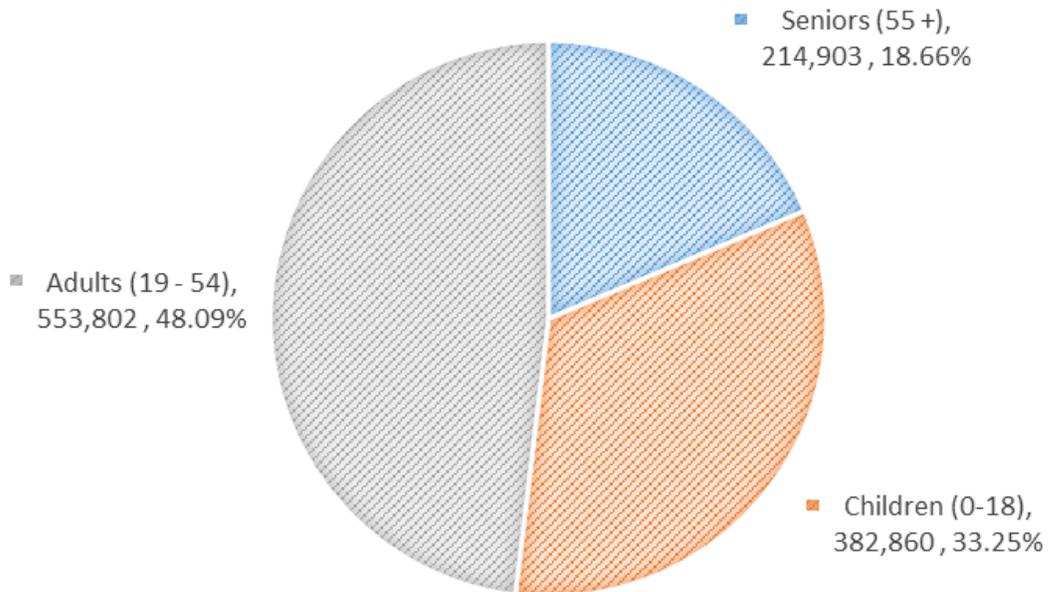
Photo Credit: U.S. Department of Agriculture

FOOD PANTRY NEW CLIENT AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

Client demographics by age group has changed dramatically since the recession. The percentage of senior clients has increased from 11.44 percent to 18.66 percent over the past decade. The percentage of children has decreased from 40.14 percent to 33.25 percent and, adults have stayed constant at around 48 percent.

The trend of clients decreasing continued for the fourth year in a row, however at a far lower rate than previous years. Only children (0-18) had a reduction in total numbers, while adults and seniors both had small increases this year. Seniors continue to be the only group whose number of clients have continued to trend upward with their numbers increasing over 50 percent over the past decade. As baby boomers continue to leave the workforce and find themselves on a fixed income, we expect that this figure will continue to rise just as it has for the past decade.

2018 NEW CLIENTS BY AGE GROUP



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

In FY2018, the total pounds of food distributed by food pantries to hungry families was slightly higher than in FY2017, at 143.18 million pounds this year compared to 140.47 million in the previous year. Even though total visits to food pantries were down, the average pounds of food a client received with each

143M

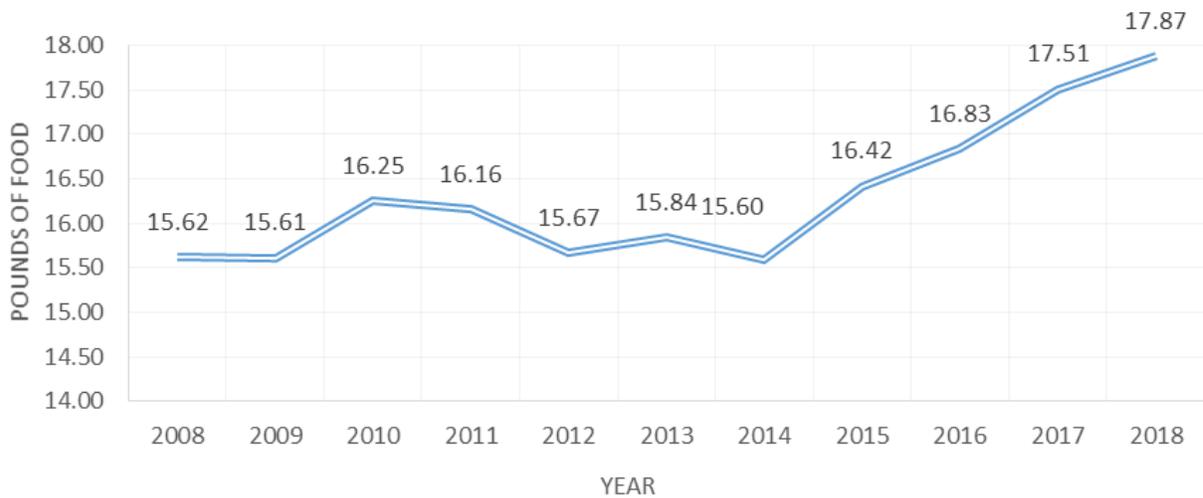
EFAP FOOD PANTRIES
DISTRIBUTED 143 MILLION
POUNDS OF FOOD TO CLIENTS.

17.87

THE AVERAGE CLIENT
RECEIVED A RECORD 17.87
POUNDS OF FOOD PER VISIT.

visit increased, from 17.51 pounds in FY2017 to 17.87 pounds in FY2018, a 2.1 percent increase. This is the highest number of pounds per visit ever recorded, a testament to the ability of food banks and food pantries to procure and distribute food with increasing efficiency.

AVERAGE POUNDS OF FOOD PER CLIENT VISIT



Cost per pound: Money can be difficult to come by for many food pantries, even those that receive EFAP funding. Communities donate time and food but as everyone knows, time and food don't necessarily keep the doors of a food pantry open, nor allow an organization to pick up donated food, pay for gas, or keep the lights on. EFAP funds and donated funds are essential for operating food pantries and meeting the needs of clients.

As mentioned in the beginning of the report, EFAP dollars alone allowed EFAP participating agencies to procure and distribute a pound of food to their clients for just 3 cents per pound. As all partners in the emergency food system recognize, none of us, organizations large or small, exist on an island. Other organizations and funding sources contribute to building a dynamic emergency food system. The EFAP closeout report asks for all match sources to be reported at the end of each year. This provides a more complete understanding of how state EFAP funds are leveraged to benefit lower-income Washingtonians.

Taking into account both cash match (donated funds) and state EFAP dollars, it cost participating food providers about 30 cents to procure a pound of food. Had these organizations purchased food on the open market, it is estimated they would have spent an average of \$1.67 per pound. This is an amazing accomplishment and a testament to EFAP providers' ability to leverage their cash donations and procure food at a remarkably low price.

For every EFAP dollar allocated to the emergency food system, nearly \$5.57 goes back to the community in the form of food to lower-income families. The 143.18 million pounds of food distributed to clients cost

the emergency food system about \$43 million based on the 30 cents per pound figure; whereas it would have cost approximately \$239 million based on FY2018's donated value rate of \$1.67 per pound.

\$0.30

FOOD PANTRIES PROCURED
FOOD FOR AN AVERAGE OF
30 CENTS PER POUND.

\$348M

EFAP FOOD PANTRIES
REPORTED \$348.14 MILLION
IN-KIND AND CASH MATCH.

Match value: The amount of match (cash and in-kind) supporting the emergency food system from other resources decreased from \$434.71 million in FY2017 to \$348.14 million in FY2018, a 20 percent decrease. EFAP contractors are required to match their state funds by 100 percent - 50 percent of which must be cash. As with every year, these numbers are impressive, but likely do not represent all of the cash and in-kind match that EFAP organizations received last year.

This FY2018 figure includes more than:

- \$275 million in additional donated food valued at \$1.67 per pound.
- \$30 million in volunteer labor valued at \$14 per hour.
- \$4.5 million in other donated services such as transportation by volunteers.
- \$38.5 million in cash donations.

EFAP contractors reported a staggering 70-to-1 match to EFAP funding ratio. And, looking just at cash match to EFAP dollars, we see that EFAP funding made up around one-ninth of participating EFAP agency budgets. These figures show the emergency food systems' ability to leverage their cash donations and the role of EFAP dollars in Washington food pantries and food banks.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TRIBAL FOOD PANTRY AND VOUCHER PROGRAM CLOSEOUT RESULTS*

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

EFAP tribal food pantries and voucher programs are an important part of the hunger relief network in Washington. This state-funded program supports tribal organizations with funding to help alleviate hunger for lower-income Washingtonians, including the homeless, receiving services from a food pantry or receiving a tribal food voucher. The \$513,391 in EFAP funds that tribes spent last year was flexible and could be used for the purchase of food or food vouchers, operational costs, nutrition training, and equipment or repairs. While tribal food pantry data is included in the previous food pantry data, it is also important to look at this data along with the voucher program separately to assess trends specific to tribes and to develop targeted solutions.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TRIBAL FOOD PANTRY CLOSEOUT RESULTS

In FY2018, tribes spent \$75,809 EFAP funds in food pantries, a similar amount to the previous year. On average, tribes spent just 3.41 percent of total funds on administrative costs. The majority of participating

tribes allocate all or nearly all EFAP funds directly to food purchases, leaving the tribe to pay for associated direct and indirect program costs with matching funds. Tribes reported a total of \$64,378 in match from other resources to support food pantries, more than the required tribal match of 35 percent.

TRIBAL FOOD PANTRY CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION

30K TRIBAL PANTRIES HAD 30,328 CLIENT VISITS IN FY2018.

7.7LBS THE AVERAGE TRIBAL CLIENT RECEIVED A RECORD 7.71 POUNDS OF FOOD PER VISIT.

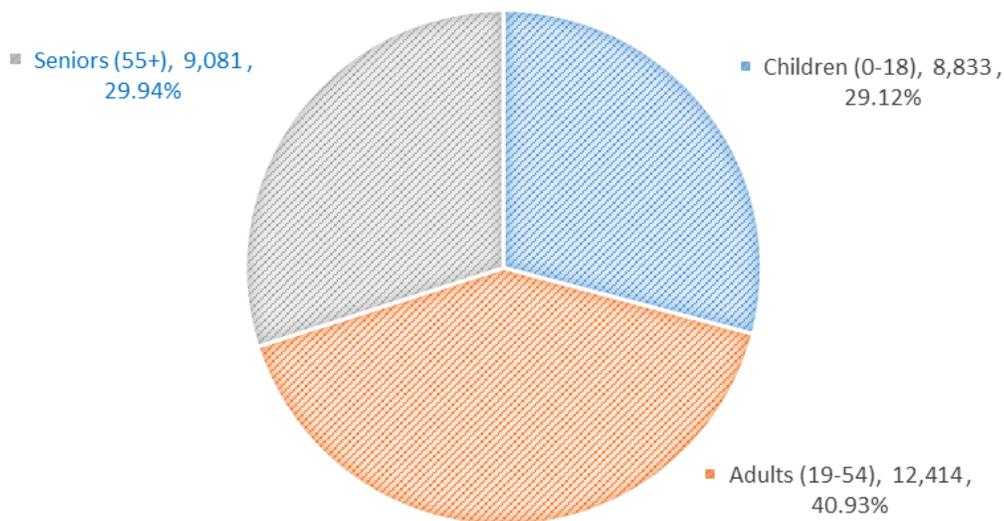
Total client visits: Total tribal food pantry clients served decreased by 6.45 percent from 32,419 in the previous year to 30,328 in FY2018. In consecutive years, tribal food pantries have seen a nearly 6.5 percent decrease in client visits.

Food distribution: The number of pounds per client visit increased by just over one-third of a pound to 7.71 pounds and the total pounds of food distributed dropped by 1.67 percent down to 233,903 pounds.

Unlike their non-tribal counterparts, tribal food pantries had across-the-board decreases in each client category, with seniors accounting for the largest decrease of 10.89 percent. Without additional information, we cannot know if need among the tribal elder population and tribal members in general has decreased, if their need is being met through other sources, or if the additional pounds per visit are reducing the need for additional visits.

In order to better understand the trends in tribal food pantries, WSDA’s FA team needs to engage tribes in follow-up conversations to find out why the total pounds distributed has continued to trend downward.

TRIBAL FOOD PANTRY TOTAL VISITS, DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP 2018



This is especially important because in the past few years, a few tribes have moved their funds completely out of a voucher program and strictly into a food pantry program.

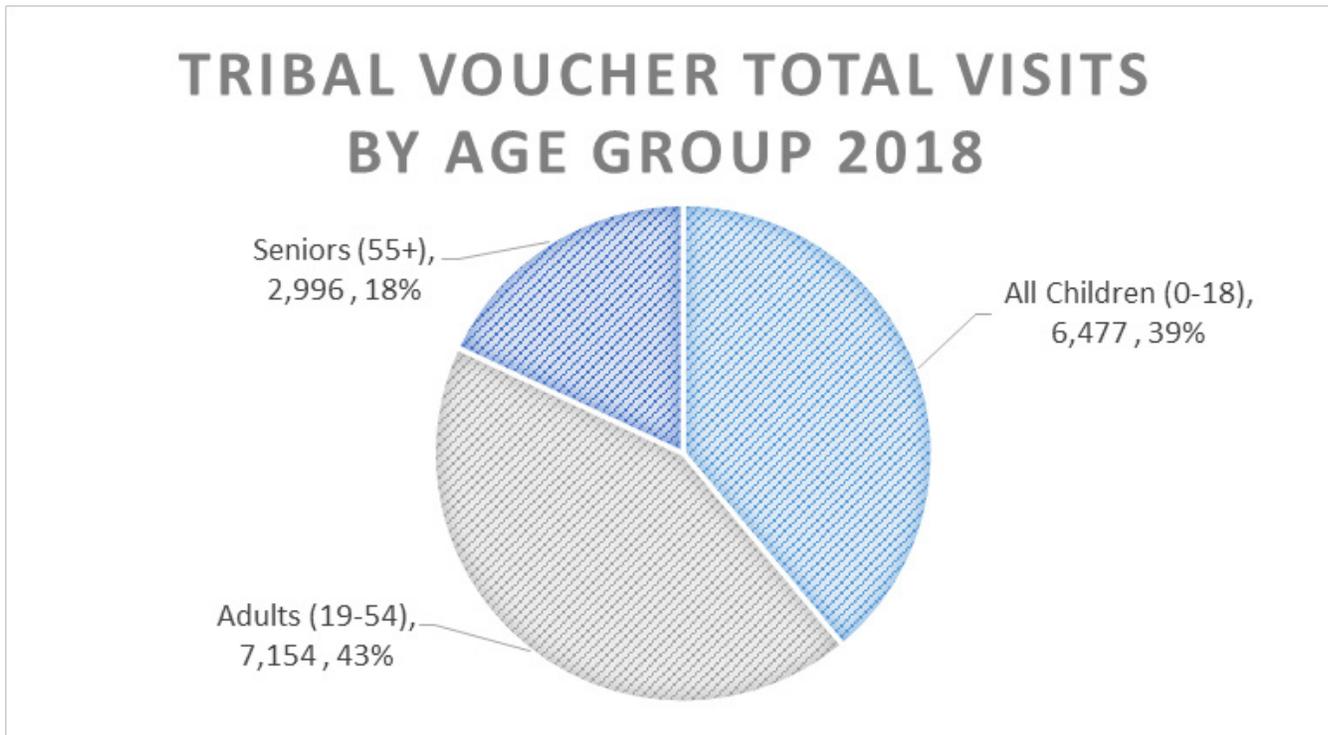
TRIBAL VOUCHER PROGRAM

The tribal voucher program plays a critical role in feeding tribal families with limited resources through direct purchases from local supermarkets. In FY2018, tribes spent \$394,134 of EFAP funding on food vouchers compared to \$389,168 in FY2017, a small increase of 1.28 percent. Voucher programs spent just 9.93 percent of total funds on program administrative and operational costs. The vast majority of participating tribes allocate all or nearly all of their EFAP voucher funds to the vouchers themselves, and pay for direct and indirect costs with matching funds. Tribes reported a total of \$368,339 in match from other resources to support their voucher activities. They are required to provide a 35 percent match to the state funds, voucher programs had nearly a 93 percent match.

TRIBAL VOUCHER PROGRAM CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

New clients: The 25 tribes participating in the voucher program issued vouchers to 9,742 people in FY2018 compared to 8,349 people in FY2017; a 16.69 percent increase.

Returning clients: There were 6,885 returning clients in FY2018 compared to 9,293 returning clients in FY2017, a 25.91 percent decrease. They averaged 1.70 trips to their tribal offices for vouchers compared to 2.11 visits the previous year.



Total clients: There was a total of 16,627 this year; a 5.75 percent decrease from the previous year of 17,642.

90%

TRIBAL VOUCHER PROGRAMS SPENT 90 PERCENT OF THEIR \$394,134 STATE FUNDS ON CLIENT VOUCHERS.

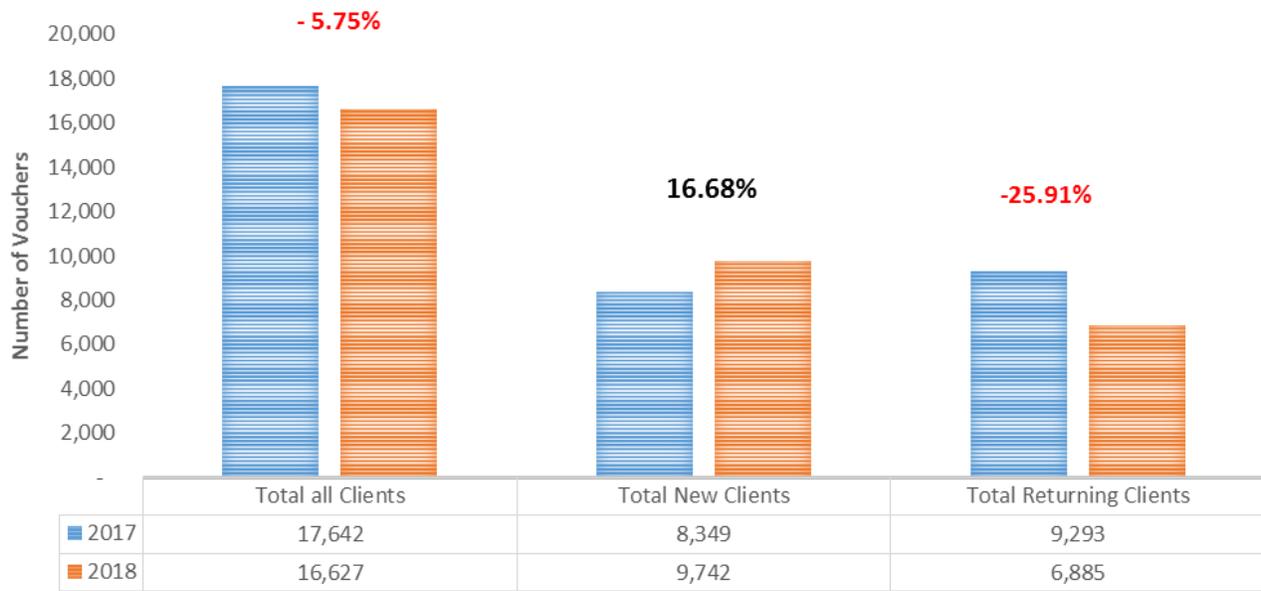
\$60

THE AVERAGE VOUCHER VALUE PER HOUSEHOLD LAST YEAR WAS \$60.31.

This decrease in total voucher clients served was not across the board. While seniors increased by 7.46 percent, adults and children decreased by 8.55 percent and 7.88 percent over the previous year.

Voucher value: There were 3,498 households that received EFAP vouchers in FY2018. The average household received a voucher 1.86 times this past year. The average voucher value per household in FY2018 increased by 4.54 percent to \$60.31 and the average amount per client increased by 7.43 percent to \$23.70.

TRIBAL VOUCHER CLIENTS PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE 2017 - 2018



SUMMARY

Washington’s economy continues to improve post-recession, and unemployment is down to at or near pre-recession levels, so it is no surprise that the total number of people seeking food assistance went down slightly this year (0.8 percent from last year). Even so, data from emergency food providers across the state shows a substantial and enduring need for food assistance among households with lower incomes who continue to rely on the emergency food system to put food on the table, demonstrated by the increased average number of visits per client. Simply put, fewer people relied on the emergency food system to feed their families, but those who did needed it more regularly than in years past.

One area of particular concern is the number of Washington seniors, 55 and older, who are having to rely on their community’s food pantry more often. This population is not experiencing the same reduction in



Photo Credit: Zachary D. Lyons / WA State Department of Agriculture

need that the general population has. Their total visits to food pantries increased to 54,370 in FY2018. Seniors also used food pantries much more often than other age groups - an additional 2.55 times per year. Washington's senior population is growing and their presence at community food pantries around the state continues to rise. Seniors continue to have a more difficult time meeting their most basic needs compared to the general population.

In addition, EFAP tribes had a shift in FY2018 as total client vouchers dropped by 6.54 percent, along with visits to tribal food pantries which decreased 6.45 percent.

Several trends across the emergency food system are moving in a positive direction. The number of new clients using food pantries decreased by 0.80 percent and the number of total client visits decreased by 1.7 percent.

An impressive 143.18 million pounds of distributed food, coupled with fewer overall visits, led food pantries to distribute an all-time high of 17.87 pounds per client across. Food pantries across the state are working hard to not only get enough food to families in need, but to provide them with higher quality, healthier foods more efficiently than anytime on record.

The pounds of food and client visits metrics listed in this report are used to measure need and understand trends within the emergency food system. Large food bank networks and small food pantries alike use these figures because they tell an important story about hunger in our state. Because this data is available for every county, allowing us to hone in on local challenges and opportunities, while also seeing it as whole statewide emergency food system. As the emergency food system continues to emphasize and prioritize healthier foods, measuring these changes in the system and their effects on clients will be important. Meaningful new metrics are likely to emerge in the coming years that will help us better understand the important impacts of innovations in the hunger relief sector.

At WSDA, we are privileged to work with thousands of dedicated emergency food providers, staff, volunteers and community partners who are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors struggling to put good food on the table. We thank you all for your tireless work to get food to those in need and to your commitment to providing accurate data to help inform and improve the emergency food system.

STRATEGIES TO MOVE THE NEEDLE

Over the next year, we will build on successful partnerships and continue to pursue strategies and opportunities to support our agricultural and hunger relief partners. FA works collaboratively with a wide

variety of partners to anticipate and respond to the evolving needs of the emergency food system. We engage and develop partnerships and resources that support our work and shared vision to meet the needs of hungry people in communities across Washington.

Integral to these partnerships is the Washington Food Coalition's Food Assistance Advisory Committee, large statewide and regional hunger relief organizations, as well as hundreds of critical community-based food banks and food pantries, meal programs and many others. Together, we are working to alleviate hunger and promote healthy eating.

While this report has focused on EFAP, each of the programs we administer through FA are interdependent, and our strategic goals are framed around all of them, including Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP; federally-funded) for seniors, The Emergency Food Program (TEFAP; federally-funded), and the Farm to Food Pantry Initiative. Looking ahead, our strategies to leverage opportunities and fulfill our mission include the following.

Ensure Capacity –

The emergency food system of Washington State is a robust network of warehousing agencies, distribution partners, and direct service emergency food providers including food banks, food pantries, and meal programs. Food Assistance's mission has a dual function of support and regulation, and one of our goals is to monitor and support capacity enhancements that will enable our emergency food partners to safely distribute and store more food, particularly more fresh and healthy food. This requires well-coordinated networks for transportation, warehousing and distribution to food pantry clients, with each step requiring appropriate infrastructure and essential capacity to ensure food safety along the way.

- **Trade Mitigated Products** - The USDA's Trade Mitigation program, as of the beginning of 2019, has already resulted in over 230,000 pounds of additional U.S. commodity foods flowing to food banks across the state. We are working closely with our warehousing and distribution network, to ensure a well-coordinated system that can absorb an additional 9.5 million pounds of food through the first half of 2019. We will work with our partners to allocate resources as needed to off-set the additional costs for distributing and storing these foods.
- **Cold Storage Capacity** – A key goal of EFAP funding is to be flexible so that community-based emergency food organizations are empowered to spend their award however they see fit. We encourage our partners to invest their EFAP funds in equipment, like refrigerators and freezers, to increase their capacity to store and distribute fresh and frozen foods to their clients. We also work with them to leverage other funding opportunities. This year we reached out to food banks and pantries across the state to promote two Refrigerator Rebate Programs, sponsored first by the Dairy Farmers of Washington, and then by Rotary First Harvest and Northwest Harvest. Many pantries report having limited refrigeration capacity and offer limited amounts of fresh products like milk, dairy products, vegetables and other perishable goods. Dairy Farmers of Washington generously provided 30 food banks and pantries up to a \$500 rebate toward the purchase of a refrigerator or walk-in cooler to improve client access to fresh products. Rotary First Harvest offered a similar program later in the year, and had \$10,000 available, which was claimed within the first two weeks of the program.

Expand Healthy Food Options and Nutrition Education –

One of Food Assistance’s key strategies, which closely aligns with Results Washington’s goal of healthy and safe communities, is to continue to facilitate and support the expansion of healthier food options in food pantries across the state. While we are critically concerned that every person in Washington has enough food to eat, we also want to ensure that people with lower incomes who are needing to rely on food pantries and meal programs have access to fresh and healthy foods that nourish health and well-being.

- **Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP)** – Having just wrapped up our 5th year, the F2FP initiative is a partnership with Rotary First Harvest that provides funding for food pantries in 18 counties to purchase fresh produce from local farmers. This initiative increases access to healthier foods for lower-income families, while helping Washington farmers enter new wholesale markets. In 2018, for every dollar invested by WSDA, food pantries received, and in turn gave out, 4.5 pounds of nutritious, locally-grown produce. Establishing this relationship between farmers and food pantries encourages future donations and gleaning opportunities for fresh produce. Since our pilot in 2014, over 543,000 pounds of nutrient-dense produce (purchased, donated, and gleaned) has been procured by emergency food providers participating in the initiative and distributed to lower-income people. Over the last five years, Washington State farmers received \$180,000 targeted for farm-direct purchases, which is especially important in light of current USDA trade mitigation programs. With increased USDA purchasing and domestic distribution of commodity foods, we anticipate that small local farms, such as those benefitting from the wholesale market created by F2FP, may experience market displacement, as they will not be able to compete with commodity pricing at the local level. F2FP has the dual benefit of getting delicious, nutritious local produce into the appreciative hands of lower-income people, while providing a wholesale lifeline that can help small-to mid-size farmers thrive, in spite of a complex and challenging international agricultural situation.
- **Fresh Milk** – Through USDA, we have been able to secure fresh milk to distribute to the emergency food network on a large scale. While the logistics for delivery and rapid distribution to ensure that this healthy food gets to clients while still fresh requires extra planning, the first shipment of more than 28,000 gallons arrived in December, and throughout the winter and spring, we expect nearly 150,000 gallons more.
- **Cost Off-Set CSA Study** – In partnership with a Cornell University-sponsored researcher, Food Assistance has helped offset the cost of Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares for lower-income people with children and will continue to do so for the final year of the study. A CSA is an innovative approach to increase access to fresh food, because shareholders receive weekly fresh produce from a local farm. This study supports our goal to increase access to fresh food while also evaluating the health benefits for kids of overcoming household economic barriers to integrating fresh food in their diets weekly.
- **Culturally Appropriate Foods** – Tribes are key partners in the fight against hunger, and through flexible EFAP funding, we hope to support and encourage tribal contractors to invest in culturally

appropriate foods and nutrition education, and to forge partnerships that support tribal food sovereignty.

Foster Interagency Partnerships to Maximize Impact and Efficiency –

Food Assistance works at the nexus of public and non-profit partnerships to improve and support the emergency food system. In addition to working effectively with hunger relief non-profits, we are uniquely positioned to foster interagency collaboration that will advance common goals within state government. We continue to collaborate with the Department of Health, Department of Social Health and Services, Department of Ecology, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Corrections, among others. In 2019, key partnerships include:

- **Department of Health (DOH)** – DOH generously continues to allocate a portion of SNAPEd funding to partner with Food Assistance, and we will continue to develop nutrition education resources to support lower-income people accessing services at food pantries. Building on the Supporting Nutrition Across Communities Kit (SNACK pack), a compilation of educational tools that encourage food pantry clients to choose healthier options, we will develop additional seasonal nutrition education resources for seniors. These tools are targeted toward clients who have low literacy skills, are non-English speaking, speak English as a second language, or are over 60 years old.
- **Department of Ecology (DOE)** – In recent years, food rescue and recovery efforts have taken a center stage in the national conversation about solid waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and hunger relief. Washington’s Ecology has stepped forward as an agency willing to lead conversations and planning to achieve the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USDA’s recent commitment to reduce food loss and waste by half by 2030. WSDA and DOH are close partners in this work as we lay the foundation to set strategies to rescue food that would have been headed to the landfill, where it would slowly decompose in an anaerobic environment, emitting greenhouse gases, and instead safely get that good food to food banks and food pantries where it can be put to use feeding hungry people.

Data Sources

- Contractors’ monthly Food Pantry demographic reports
- Contractors’ monthly Tribal Food Voucher demographic reports
- Emergency Food Assistance Program Access database reports

Definitions

“**New or Unduplicated Client**” means a Client served by an Emergency Food Provider during the reporting period for the **FIRST** time in the **current** fiscal year.

“**Returning or Duplicated Client**” means a client served by an Emergency Food Provider during the reporting period who the Emergency Food Provider previously served during the **current** fiscal year.

“**Visits**” means all new client plus returning client visits during the fiscal year.

Table 1: Yearly Data for Food Pantries, State Fiscal Years 2008-2018 (FY = July 1- June 30)

	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Total Client Visits (New and Returning)	7,367,356	7,300,476	7,803,414	7,980,242	8,471,871	8,353,656	8,946,352	8,482,299	8,224,133	8,023,428	8,010,132
New Clients	1,653,009	1,461,116	1,576,894	1,433,580	1,371,965	1,294,363	1,384,608	1,260,963	1,225,165	1,160,838	1,151,565
Returning Clients	5,714,347	5,839,360	6,226,520	6,546,662	7,099,906	7,059,293	7,561,744	7,221,336	6,998,968	6,862,590	6,858,567
Total New Families Served	567,660	499,918	546,431	505,392	488,076	458,868	484,749	457,407	443,756	432,267	448,296
Average # of Visits Per Client per Year (Visits/New Clients)	4.46	5.00	4.95	5.57	6.17	6.45	6.46	6.73	6.71	6.91	6.96
Pounds of Food Distributed	115,061,507	113,952,122	126,785,318	128,951,893	132,742,749	132,303,513	139,522,115	139,272,915	138,451,384	140,473,341	143,180,571
Average # of lbs of Food/ Client Visit/Yr (lbs/client visits)	15.62	15.61	16.25	16.16	15.67	15.84	15.60	16.42	16.83	17.51	17.87

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Table 2: Yearly Data for Tribal Voucher Programs, State Fiscal Years 2008-2018 (FY = July 1- June 30)

	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Total Client Vouchers (New and Returning)	15,117	17,111	17,559	21,881	15,697	19,965	17,536	19,258	18,143	17,642	16,714
New Client Vouchers	7,947	8,222	9,791	9,064	8,712	8,503	9,526	8,508	9,167	8,349	9,076
Returning Client Vouchers	7,170	8,889	7,768	12,817	6,985	11,462	8,010	10,750	8,976	9,293	7,638
Total New Households	2,772	2,672	3,474	3,123	3,404	3,083	3,661	3,461	3,434	3,027	3,257
Average # of Vouchers Per Client per Year (Vouchers/New Clients)	1.90	2.08	1.79	2.41	1.80	2.35	1.84	2.26	1.98	2.11	1.84

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