Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) - Tribal
Intent to Apply: 2021-2023 Biennium Instructions

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) announces its distribution of Intent to Apply notices to tribes for the 2021-2023 biennium (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023) for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP). EFAP is a state-funded program that supports both community-based tribal food pantries and tribal voucher programs. The state legislature has allocated these funds to provide lower-income families with nutritious food. WSDA requires that all interested tribes complete the EFAP-Tribal Intent to Apply: 2021-2023 Biennium form (AGR-2197) and have it to WSDA’s Food Assistance by March 15, 2021.

Total statewide biennial funds available to tribes are estimated to be approximately $1 million. The legislature has not yet passed the budget for the 2021-2023 biennium. We may or may not know the actual amount available by the time we distribute the applications in April. If not, we will include a draft allocation table with the application.

The allocation of these funds will be based on the following formula: One-half of the available funding will be divided equally among participating tribes as a base. The other half will be distributed in proportion to each tribe’s total enrolled membership.

EFAP funds may be used to operate a voucher program, a food pantry program (provided you currently have a food pantry that will have been in operation for at least one year as of July 1, 2021), or a combined food pantry and voucher program. Note: You will receive the same amount of funding no matter how you choose to spend your allocation. You must indicate on the Intent to Apply form which program you wish to administer. Your choice will determine which EFAP application will be sent to you. We will be emailing applications in April.

To apply for funding, please complete the following sections on the EFAP - Tribal Intent to Apply: 2021-2023 Biennium (AGR-2197):

**Section 1 - Tribal Information:**

Enter the current contact information for your tribe. Include both mailing and physical address, if different. Check the box to indicate whether yours is a federally recognized tribe or not.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

1) Intent to Apply is due to WSDA March 15, 2021.
   Submit completed forms by email: foodassistance@agr.wa.gov
   Or by mail: WSDA Food Assistance PO Box 42560 Olympia, WA 98504-2560

2) Applications will be emailed to interested parties in April.

3) Applications are due to WSDA May 14, 2021.

4) Once application is received and approved by WSDA, contracts will be emailed.

5) Two original signed contracts are due to WSDA June 18, 2021.

For more information, visit us at: agr.wa.gov/services/food-access
Section 2 - Funding Options:

If you do not wish to apply for funding, check the appropriate box and return the Intent to Apply form to WSDA Food Assistance at the address listed on the bottom of the form.

If you would like to apply for funding, please indicate which program you wish to administer. Your choice will determine which EFAP application will be sent you to. Please note the following options:

1. Voucher Program Only:
   A federally recognized or federally unrecognized tribe with a 501(c)3 IRS designation can:
   - Apply on its own directly to WSDA, or
   - Apply through another tribe or tribal organization.

2. Food Pantry Program Only:
   A federally recognized tribe can:
   - Apply on its own directly to WSDA, or
   - Apply under the EFAP non-tribal contractor for your service area.
   
   A federally unrecognized tribe **must**:
   - Apply under the EFAP non-tribal contractor for your service area.
   
   If you wish to apply under the EFAP non-tribal contractor, please call or email Food Assistance. We will notify the EFAP non-tribal contractor in your service area and they will contact you directly. That agency will also notify you about the meeting it must schedule with all participating food pantries prior to the due date for applications. The EFAP non-tribal contractor will submit the application to Food Assistance on your behalf and enter into a subcontract with your tribe.

3. Combined Food Pantry and Voucher Program:
   - Available **only** to federally recognized tribes.
   - Must apply directly to WSDA.

Section 3: Membership Information:

Please enter the current number for your total enrolled tribal membership. The enrollment figures will be used to compute your tribe’s share of the total funds available for the program. **The allocations for each tribe cannot be calculated until all tribes have submitted their current enrollment data.**

Please visit agr.wa.gov and search “EFAP tribal” for more information. If you have any questions about these instructions or the application form, please feel free to contact Food Assistance, at foodassistance@agr.wa.gov or (360) 725-5657.

Please return the EFAP – Tribal Intent to Apply 2021-2023 Biennium (AGR-2197) to WSDA Food Assistance by March 15, 2021.

Washington State Department of Agriculture - Food Assistance
1111 Washington St. SE ~ PO Box 42560 ~ Olympia, WA 98504-2560
foodassistance@agr.wa.gov