This initiative was made possible through partnership with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and the grant funding they provided. Funding in part by USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. USDA is an equal opportunity employer. The Washington State Basic Food Program can help provide a healthy diet consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. All publication rights belong to WSDA.
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Author
This report was written by David Bobanick, executive director; Maddie Price, Farm to Community program manager; and Ellis Fahsholtz, Farm to Community VISTA at Harvest Against Hunger. The initiative was conducted on the behalf of, and with the support of the Washington State Department of Agriculture’s Food Assistance programs.

About Harvest Against Hunger
The mission of Harvest Against Hunger is to help feed hungry people with surplus nutritious produce by connecting farmers, produce packing facilities, transportation providers and food banks, developing and sharing innovative hunger relief solutions, and engaging the public in hunger relief.

One of the core principles of Harvest Against Hunger is that hungry people don’t just need food, they need nutritious food. This organization’s focus is to develop programs and partnerships that increase and expand the amount and variety of healthy fruits and vegetables available at hunger relief programs across Washington.

Getting healthy food to hungry people is complicated. Harvest Against Hunger plays the unique role of making connections that move surplus produce from farms to food pantries. Success looks like building relationships that create efficiencies for everyone involved.

Harvest Against Hunger is constantly exploring sustainable and effective ways to engage food sources (e.g. farmers, processors, packing houses) with hunger relief programs that serve hundreds of thousands of men, women and children across Washington State. The Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP) initiative has helped Harvest Against Hunger and its hunger relief partners to test and expand relationships and program models that are changing the dynamic in providing fresh produce for Washington State’s most vulnerable people.
About the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Food Assistance Programs

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is committed to supporting all aspects of growing, processing and distributing food. From protecting precious natural resources to helping farmers and producers connect with markets for their products, and assuring consumers that their food is safe; WSDA is working to make sure everyone in the state has access to good food.

WSDA Food Assistance programs serve communities and lower-income families by improving access to safe and nutritious foods. We honor our connections with agriculture and strengthen the emergency food system by providing food, funding, logistical support, and outreach to hunger relief providers and tribes. Food Assistance manages and creates statewide policy for seven unique federal and state food assistance programs, each with a different set of regulations. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, one in six Washingtonians rely on food pantries supported with resources from WSDA. The number of people served due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has almost doubled.

WSDA is committed to pursuing new and innovative ways to bring healthy, nutritious food to hungry people while promoting the economic growth and viability of Washington farmers. The goal is to see Washington full of vibrant farms and healthy communities with easy access to nutritious food.

The Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP) initiative helps bridge the gap between hunger relief agencies and farmers through relationship building and direct farm purchasing. The initiative is one strategy WSDA employs to increase lower-income individuals’ access to nutritious and fresh local produce, while providing an economic lifeline that can help small to midsize farmers thrive.

The F2FP initiative has made a big impact over the last seven years without much funding. WSDA Food Assistance programs are interested in pathways forward that includes securing dedicated funding to shift F2FP from an initiative to a program. The F2FP team is grateful to the state Legislature for their significant F2FP investments in the 2021-23 biennial budget which will expand the initiative statewide and increase the funding we provide to each lead agency, ultimately increasing the amount of fresh produce in the hands of lower-income Washingtonians.
Acknowledgements

Harvest Against Hunger and WSDA gratefully acknowledge the following people who are dedicated to making fresh, nutrient-dense produce into the hands of Washingtonian’s that need it the most. It is their dedication to seeing a more robust and healthful emergency food system, with the added benefit of supporting their local communities, that has made this initiative such a success. Their guidance and active participation are instrumental in helping to continue to build and refine this important project.

Community Partners
Jeff Mathias – Blue Mountain Action Council
Brent Hunter – Coastal Harvest
Kendra Dean – Food for All, Catholic Charities of Eastern WA
Diane Fish – Kitsap Conservation District
Sharah Truett – WSU Extension Clallam County
Emily Kaleel and Henry Rogatz – Clark County Food Bank
Sarah Kane and Paige Collins – Council on Aging and Human Services
Elena Lavrushin – Hopelink Harvest
Cole Bitzenburg – Community Action of Skagit County
Jennifer Short – Okanogan County Community Action Council
Nils Johnson – WSU Extension Stevens County/N.E.W. Hunger Coalition
Bob Mark – Upper Valley MEND
Amanda Milholland – Jefferson County Farmers Markets Association
Stephanie Turco – Good Cheer Food Bank
Haydee Barbosa – Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA

Washington State Department of Health
Jamie Wells – Health Services Consultant

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Derek Sandison – Director
Patrick Capper – Deputy Director
Steve Fuller – Assistant Director, Food Safety and Consumer Services
Kim Eads – Program Manager, Food Assistance
Nichole Garden – Program Specialist, Food Assistance

Harvest Against Hunger
David Bobanick – Executive Director
Maddie Price – Farm to Community Program Manager
Ellis Fahsholtz - Farm to Community VISTA
Executive Summary

Program Overview
The Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP) initiative goes beyond increasing lower-income individuals’ access to fresh produce; it also strengthens community-based food systems while increasing the viability and success of both agricultural producers and hunger relief organizations. The initiative functions as an incubator in which new models are developed and tested every season. The F2FP initiative expands existing markets for farmers and creates new ones, strengthening local food systems through symbiotic relationships between food pantries and growers. The resulting relationships allow participating growers to donate additional produce with little additional impact to their existing business model.

This partnership between WSDA and Harvest Against Hunger is a prime example of how state agencies can collaborate with nonprofits to make a significant statewide impact. For every dollar invested by WSDA in 2020, seven pounds of nutrient-dense produce was received by food pantries. This annual report was commissioned to examine how these developments can offer solutions that can be shared with both farmers and food pantries statewide.

In 2020, an initial $33,000 in pass-through funding was distributed to 15 F2FP agencies engaged in hunger relief efforts. During the 2020 supplemental budget session, the Washington State Legislature earmarked funding dedicated to the F2FP initiative for the first time ever. With this supplemental appropriation, an additional $40,000 was passed through to participating lead agencies for the 2020 growing season and an additional $40,000 has been provided for the 2021 season. These agencies serve 148 food pantries in 24 counties throughout the state, who served over 341,364 food pantry clients in 2020. The lead agencies raised almost $90,000 in matching funds to add towards produce purchases.

F2FP lead agencies used the grant money, combined with their local match funding, to purchase produce directly from local growers. In all, 97 growers participated in the initiative, with many playing dual roles as both seller and donor. Of farmers surveyed, 86 percent reported that participating in the F2FP initiative had some positive impact on their financial security. Altogether, participating growers were paid almost $163,000 through F2FP using WSDA grants and matched funds. On average, farmers received $1.55 per pound from participating food pantries, which is reflective of both the increased cost of food during the pandemic and a shared intention among lead agencies to value local food products highly as often as possible. In return, participating agencies purchased approximately 105,000 pounds of produce.

In addition, because a relationship had been established with food pantries, participating growers with surplus produce tended to donate additional produce or allowed volunteers to glean their fields. Through these donations, participating hunger relief organizations captured approximately 448,000 additional pounds of produce that would otherwise be composted or tilled back into the soil, helping to reduce food waste.
Many of the concepts and models built through the F2FP initiative have been incorporated into broader hunger relief efforts across Washington. Harvest Against Hunger launched and expanded two programs built on the F2FP initiative framework to support farmers and hunger relief programs in King County. The models and best practices that continue to be developed through the F2FP initiative can be readily implemented in other communities across Washington and neighboring states.

2020: Impacts of COVID-19

In many ways, 2020 was a year that served as an unintended proof of concept for efforts like the F2FP initiative that strengthen local food systems to reduce hunger. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated a number of pre-existing weaknesses in the local food systems. Supply chains experienced a surge in demand due to consumer stockpiling shelf-stable inventory. Fresh product became more essential. Partners in both food production and hunger relief were forced to adjust their program models quickly to meet demand.

For growers, the sudden closure of many traditional lines of business in early spring forced them to quickly find new outlets for produce they were already growing. F2FP and other farm-to-hunger relief efforts proved a valuable tool in getting much-needed cash resources to support growers. Additional state and federal relief funding allowed F2FP sites to increase existing contracts and add new contracts with additional growers.

For hunger relief partners, increased access to fresh, local produce helped to expand the variety and nutritional quality of additional emergency food supplies provided by USDA and other sources to meet the dramatically increased need many communities across Washington experienced throughout 2020.

F2FP continues to apply lessons learned during 2020 as the program expands and develops across more areas of Washington as well as new communities - particularly to reach marginalized groups that have been previously underserved by traditional hunger relief efforts and with limited healthy food access.
## Key Metrics

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<td><strong>Number of Farms</strong></td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Counties Impacted</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>65,407</td>
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<td><strong>Lbs of Produce Donated</strong></td>
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<td>18,681</td>
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<td>155,519</td>
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<td><strong>$/Lb Purchased</strong></td>
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<td>$0.79</td>
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<td>$1.05</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
<td>$1.07</td>
<td>$1.55</td>
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<td><strong>$/Lb Purchased/Donated/Gleaned</strong></td>
<td>$0.40</td>
<td>$0.44</td>
<td>$0.43</td>
<td>$0.22</td>
<td>$0.46</td>
<td>$0.21</td>
<td>$0.29</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Statewide map showing counties impacted by the Farm to Food Pantry initiative
Introduction

One of the most challenging aspects of both farming and hunger relief is finding effective and efficient ways to deliver healthy, nutrient-dense fresh produce to consumers. Getting fresh produce into the emergency food system is critically important to many people who work in hunger relief because they know that a strong agricultural community is imperative to increasing access to nutritional foods that are needed by the clients that they serve. Purchasing produce directly from a farmer produces a positive impact for both farmer and food bank, increasing the sale of local crops while improving access to healthier food choices for hungry families. In addition, buying produce directly from the growers goes a long way to strengthen the bond between farmer and food bank. If a farmer has a strong relationship with a local food bank, they may be more inclined to make produce donations.

Challenges Faced by Emergency Food Providers

Food pantries play a vital role in promoting food security among vulnerable populations. From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, Washington State food pantries supported by WSDA’s Food Assistance programs, distributed 165.28 million pounds of food to 1.35 million Washingtonians struggling to put food on the table. During the coronavirus pandemic, there was an increased need for food assistance as some Washingtonians lost employment. Hunger relief organizations expanded their reach through services outside of traditional WSDA programing.

USDA Dietary Guidelines recommend that adults eat at least two cups per day of fruit and three cups per day of vegetables as part of a healthy eating pattern. Yet, according to the Center for Disease Control, only 13% of Washington residents meet the recommended daily intake of fruit and only 11% meet their daily recommended vegetable intake.¹ In 2019, 77% of Washington State SNAP-eligible adults, and 82% of youth consumed less than five servings of fruits and vegetables per day.²

These disparities can be more pronounced in food pantry patrons, whose intake is dependent on what is available through either commodity foods, grocery rescue, or donations.

To effectively combat the negative health consequences associated with a lack of access to healthy foods, emergency food providers face the challenge of not only providing as much food as possible, but providing the right kind of foods at a minimal cost to their organizations. To address these disparities, the CDC recommends linking large-scale purchasers of fruits and vegetables - such as hunger relief organizations - with local farms and regional food hubs that aggregate and distribute produce as a potential action to increase fruit and vegetable

A USDA Economic Research Service report found that a variety of characteristics in local food systems that support local agriculture can benefit both low-income residents and farmers, large and small.⁴

**Challenges Faced by Local Growers**

Washington State is a national leader in agricultural production because of its rich soil, rain shadow, and temperate climate. In addition to the numerous large-scale farming operations successfully operating in Washington, there are thousands of small-scale operations that help comprise the broader farming industry.

According to a statewide survey of Washington State farmers, income generated by small farms can be significant to families and communities. USDA reports that small farms rely more on direct-to-consumer marketing channels, with 85% of local farms making less than $75,000 annual gross income in 2017.⁵ The 2017 agricultural census found that 92% of all farms in Washington State have agricultural market values of less than $250,000, with approximately 60% of small farms reporting farming as their primary occupation.

While growers face many challenges regardless of the size of their operation, financial insecurity, lack of start-up cash, and swings in global commodity prices are some of the challenges faced more often by small growers.

**Background**

The concept for F2FP was originally developed through grower roundtables, a series of post-harvest conversations, focused on engaging farmers in local hunger relief efforts. Participants were mostly small-scale market farmers, farming less than 25 acres. One realization that came from these meetings was that a small infusion of cash at the beginning of the season can make a critical difference in a farmer’s success.

In an effort to increase the amount of healthier foods being distributed by food pantries, while benefiting Washington farmers, WSDA’s Food Assistance engaged Harvest Against Hunger to coordinate the allocation of grant funds, as well as manage and develop the initiative. The Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP) initiative was launched as a pilot program in 2014 to test, develop, and build new models for connecting farmers with local hunger relief efforts. The purchasing initiative is unique in its multifaceted goals; it seeks to support local growers, as well as bring fresh produce into the hunger relief system. WSDA’s Food Assistance programs are committed to supporting these additional food purchases in a way that is beneficial for local farmers.

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The F2FP initiative aligns with SNAP-Education’s policy, systems, and environmental change interventions by increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables for lower-income residents. Because of this alignment, in 2016 the Washington State Department of Health provided WSDA a SNAP-Ed grant targeted toward the southeast portion of the state. The SNAP-Ed funds supported Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Whitman, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties in 2020.

In the last seven years, the number of lead agencies has grown from three agencies serving three counties, to 15 agencies providing emergency food assistance in 24 counties. The initiative has continued to evolve and expand, increasing the quality and nutrient density of fresh produce accessible to Washingtonians experiencing food insecurity.
Methodology

Harvest Against Hunger and WSDA selected 15 agencies who expressed interest in establishing or maintaining Farm to Food Pantry purchasing to serve their regional area. Each lead agency received funding from WSDA that included a base amount of $2,200 plus an amount divided among agencies using a points-based rubric. Factors included county poverty rates, number of pantries served, and amount of donated/gleaned produce from the previous year.

To build community buy-in, the agencies were asked to secure a minimum of $500 in local match funding to increase resources available. While more flexibility was given for meeting this in 2020 due to the pandemic straining agencies’ administrative capacity, many community-matched grants were double or even quadruple the amount of funds available to purchase local produce.

Lead agencies used these funds to contract directly with local farms with the intent of strengthening relationships with local growers for future donations and supporting the local emergency feeding system. The local organizations were encouraged to purchase from local growers who currently support gleaning or donate produce, or farms that are likely to in the future after establishing a contract.

Contracts

Once the growers participating in the purchasing program were identified, contracts were negotiated and signed, with each site stipulating the quantity and purchase price of produce to be provided. Specific program models used (e.g., scheduled pre-harvest purchase versus ad-hoc, post-harvest purchase) were determined by the lead agency and based on needs of the local hunger relief community. The various farm contracts included:

- **Wholesale**: Commits a certain monetary amount to purchase unspecified types of produce, determined later in growing season based on production overages and availability.
- **Pre-contracting**: Specifies type, quantity and cost of produce at outset of growing season, with farm distributing directly to food pantry.
- **Post-harvest**: Commits a certain amount of funding at outset of season, but food pantry pays for produce once harvested and distributed. It was recommended that funds be spent to purchase produce from local farmers who are currently participating in gleaning and produce recovery efforts, or that are interested in doing so in the future.

Google Sheets

A master sheet was developed for all participating sites to report quantitative data. The expectation was that agencies consistently enter data throughout the season. The reporting categories included:

- Lead agency details (phone, address, contact, counties served, food pantries served)
- Participating farms (farm name, contact, address)
- Total pounds and types of produce purchased, gleaned and donated
- Match amount and source
- Food pantry recipients
**Google Forms**

Three sets of surveys were developed to capture qualitative data from lead agencies, farmers and food pantries receiving produce from the program. Responses were received from lead agencies, 36 farmers, and 11 food pantries. This information was collected at the end of the season. (See Lead Agency Highlights, Takeaways and Perspectives from Food Pantries, and Takeaways and Perspectives from Farmers sections for the list of questions and responses.)

**Monthly F2FP Cohort Check-in Calls**

Having begun in the 2018 F2FP initiative season, monthly check-in calls via GoToMeeting continued to be held with the lead agency cohort. These calls provided an opportunity for participating lead agencies to share information, best practices and ideas with one another, as well as to solicit feedback and solve problems or issues faced with COVID-19 response.

**Grower Appreciation Cards**

Continuing a tradition developed to gather informal food pantry client feedback to share with growers, F2FP initiative grower appreciation cards were provided to lead agencies to distribute to the participating food pantries. These cards not only provided a platform for food pantry clients to say thank you to the farmers supplying produce, they asked the clients what fruits and vegetables they wanted to see more of. These cards provided qualitative data from a food pantry client's perspective. Prior to sending the cards off to farmers, lead agencies were asked to document the responses and submit them to Harvest Against Hunger or WSDA. Fewer cards were received this year, as COVID-19 precautions limited contact with food pantry customers.
2020 Farm to Food Pantry Initiative Improvements

The flexible structure of the Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP) initiative allows WSDA, Harvest Against Hunger, and the lead agencies the opportunity to develop, refine, and improve the process to better serve communities, farmers, food pantries and clients.

Expanding the Geographic and Program Diversity of Lead Agencies

The F2FP initiative added one new lead agency in 2020, Good Cheer Food Bank on Whidbey Island. Bringing on new sites in geographically unique parts of the state further strengthens the F2FP initiative by introducing different strategies to build new or expand existing networks for sourcing and delivering local produce into the emergency food system. These new approaches can then be replicated and refined in other areas.

Results

Lead Agency Highlights

Outcomes are documented by lead agency in the subsequent pages. Population and poverty estimates are listed per county; the client data listed reflects services provided through USDA The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) at participating F2FP initiative food pantries unless otherwise noted. Highlights include:

- Food Pantry Partners
- Program Description
- County Statistics
- Match Procured
- Farmer Partners
- Pounds of Produce Purchased
- Types of Produce Purchased
- Pounds of Produce Donated and/or Gleaned
- Types of Produce Donated and/or Gleaned

Lead agencies used a common set of tools to collect and report quantitative and qualitative data throughout the growing season. These data are used to track impacts the F2FP initiative had across a broad mix of geographic, demographic and agricultural regions of the state. While the communities may vary broadly, there are some consistent outcomes that could be tracked and analyzed.
Blue Mountain Action Council
Walla Walla, WA
5th year partner

Counties Served: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla

Food Pantry Partners:
BMAC Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul - Clarkston, Basin City Help Services, Connell Food Bank,
Pomona Grange, Burbank Grange, Blue Mountain Heart to Heart, Helpline, Pantry Shelf,
Salvation Army of Pasco, Asotin County Food Bank, Salvation Army of Walla Walla, Saint Vincent
De Paul - WW, Waitsburg Resource Center, Garfield County Food Bank, Pasco Community
Services

Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC), a Community Action Program, is a private, nonprofit, multipurpose agency, serving residents in Southeastern Washington to: Meet the basic needs of low-income individuals and families, offer opportunities for individuals and families to achieve greater levels of strength, independence, and self-sufficiency, develop and implement strategies to prevent poverty in our communities, and leverage community support, service, and volunteerism.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walla Walla County</td>
<td>Population: 60,365* Total number of clients receiving TEFAP services: 22,175**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 13.3%* Total number of TEFAP services provided to clients: 145,997**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garfield County</td>
<td>Population: 2,230* Total number of clients receiving service: 192**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 10.3%* Total number of services provided to clients: 1,807**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia County</td>
<td>Population: 3,992* Total number of clients receiving service: 2,101**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 11.3%* Total number of services provided to clients: 10,877**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asotin County</td>
<td>Population: 22,421* Total number of clients receiving service: 3,355**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 12.6%* Total number of services provided to clients: 126,660**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate  
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020)

Blue Mountain Action Council received $1,600 to pay farmers for their seeds, soil, amendments, and tools through the Department of Health's SNAP-Ed grant, and $4,986 from the WSDA grant. They also received $55,066 through community matching funds, including in-kind donations and volunteer support.

**Website:** [www.bmacww.org](http://www.bmacww.org)

**Farmer Partners:** Birch Creek Farms, Frog Hollow Farm, Hayshaker Farm, Klicker's Strawberry Acres, Locati Farms, R & R Produce, Rowley & Hawkins Fruit Farms, Welcome Table Farm

**Pounds of Produce Purchased:** 36,096 lbs.
Types of Produce Purchased:
Arugula, asparagus, beets, blackberries, bok choy, carrots, cauliflower, chard, cherries, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, grapes, greens, lettuce, kale, peppers, plums, potatoes, spinach, squash, tomatoes, watermelon, zucchini

In Addition to the Farm Partners listed above, Donated Produce was Provided by:
A.R. Teals Produce, Enriquez Farms, Farmlink, Lefore Apple Farm, Miles Away Farm, Terra Gold Farms, Walla Walla Organics, Knights of Columbus, Rees / Sumach Community Garden, Tate Transportation, Walla Walla Farmers Co-Op, the Washington State Penitentiary, and individual contributions

Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 276,396 lbs.

Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:
Apples, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, green beans, onions, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon, other assorted fruit & veg
Catholic Charities | Food for All
*Spokane, WA*
2nd year partner

**Counties Served:** Spokane

**Food Pantry Partners:**
Greenhouse Community Center, Caritas Outreach Ministries, Our Place Community Outreach, Cleone’s Closet, MLK Jr. Family Outreach / East Central Food Bank, American Indian Community Center, Spokane Valley Partners, Northeast Food Pantry/NW Connect

Food For all provides fresh produce to various Catholic Charities housing units, along with other meal sites in the community. We support Spokane area farmers markets by serving as an anchor produce vendor and providing support and administering programs to maximize the accessibility of farmers markets for food insecure households.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spokane County Statistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population: 505,505*</td>
<td>Total number of clients receiving service: 6,735**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 13.7%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 44,712**</td>
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*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020)

Catholic Charities | Food for All received $4,832 from the WSDA grant and $443 in community matching funds, through individual donation.

**Website:** www.cceasternwa.org/food-for-all

**Farmer Partners:**
Abundance Farm, Courage to Grow Farms, Elithorp Farm, Fresh Cut Farms, Frisson Farms, Full Bushel Farm, Montague Heritage Farms, S&P Homestead, Song Sparrow Farms

**Pounds of Produce Purchased:** 3,283 lbs.

**Types of Produce Purchased:**
Blueberries, cherries, radish, kale, broccoli, potatoes, summer squash, peas, beets, tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, carrots, green beans, corn, eggplant, peppers, onions,
cabbage, mixed greens, pumpkins

**Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 23,900 lbs.**

**Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:**
Basil, beets, squash, cucumbers, kale, chard, lettuce, tomatoes, leeks, onions, greens, peppers, zucchini

**Lead Agency Perspective:**

*Describe successes or achievements of this year’s F2FP initiative*
Having more funding allowed us to increase the amount of farmers participating and the produce available. It also allowed us to buy some traditionally more expensive, but loved items, like blueberries.

*Describe challenges you’ve faced with this year’s F2FP initiative*
Communication with some food pantries can be challenging, especially when they are getting food from several places. Since we are new-ish to the program, it seems like it takes 1-2 years of relationship before they really understand the program and we figure out best communication practices.

*Describe any partnerships you developed through this year’s F2FP initiative*
Several new partnerships with pantries and farmers.

*Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?*
Not much. For the most part, we believe any locally grown produce is adding nutrition and options at the food pantries. We do contract with a greens grower because of nutrients, but other than that, farmers decide what to sell us.

*How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?*
We purposely only partner with one fruit producer for cherries and blueberries as many other fruits come through the food pantries on a regular basis. All the other contracts we have allowed the farmers to decide what to sell. We do * the client's preferred items so that the farmers know, but it is ultimately up to them. Next year, we will likely only re-sign contracts with farmers that gave us a variety and also gave us things we don't often get donated.

*Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?*
See above re: fruit. For veggies, we allow farmers to choose. I think next year, we may raise prices on certain items if we want them, as there are some farmers who say they cannot let go of certain items for certain prices.
Clark County Food Bank
Vancouver, WA
7th year partner

Counties Served: Clark

Food Pantry Partners:
Amboy Food Bank, Angels of God, Battle Ground Adventist Community Services, Clark County Adventist Community Services, East Vancouver Community Church, FISH of Orchards, FISH of Vancouver, Community Kitchen Fruit Valley, Inter-Faith Treasure House, Lewis River Mobile Food Bank, Martha's Pantry, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, North County Community Food Bank, One Life, Salvation Army: Vancouver Social Services, SixEight Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul: Brush Prairie, St. Vincent de Paul: Vancouver, Trinity Mission Cupboard, Woodland Action, Lost and Found Café, Proto Cathedral of St. James the Greater, Daybreak Youth Services, Healthy Equitable Living Project, Janus Youth Programs--Oak Bridge Shelter, Learning Avenues Child Care, Lifeline Connections, Meals on Wheels, Open House Ministries, Share House Inc, YWCA Safe Choice, Food Bank Fresh - Mobile Farmer’s Market, Share, Community Kitchen Walnut Grove, Frontier Middle School, Legacy High School, Open, House Ministries, Reach Community Development – Mccallister Village, Reach Community Development – Isabella Court, The Salvation Army – Washougal, UConnect Resource Center, Boys & Girls Clubs of SW Washington, Bridgeview Resource Center, Friends of the Carpenter, Free Hot Soup, Hough Foundation, NEXT, Recovery Café Clark County, Share Fromhold Service Center, Share Homestead, Share Orchards Inn

The mission of Clark County Food Bank (CCFB) is: To alleviate hunger and its root causes. Achieving our mission is done in two parts: providing emergency food relief to individuals and families, as well as implementing a preventative stance against the various causes of hunger.
Clark County Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 473,252*</th>
<th>Total number of clients receiving service: 52,011**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 9.3%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 293,669**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supplemental Service #s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clients (duplicated) served by non-EFAP food pantries: 36,010</th>
<th>13,224</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 13.7%*</td>
<td>Number of produce program distribution days: 194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020) 29 Food Pantry Partners listed are not TEFAP sites and their data is not represented.

Clark County Food Bank received $4,656 from the WSDA grant.

Website: www.clarkcountyfoodbank.org

Farmer Partners:
April Joy Farm, Bautista Farms, Cruel Mistress Cranberries, Flat Tack Farm, Volehalla Farm, Good Rain Farm, Roots to Road, Sprout and Blossom Farm

Pounds of Produce Purchased: 5,633 lbs.

Types of Produce Purchased:
Melons, misc. produce

Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 17,407 lbs.

Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:
Misc. produce

Lead Agency Perspective:

Describe successes or achievements of this year’s F2FP initiative
1. Increasing the amount of produce partners -- have felt like we are really building a community of partners rather than just adding on partners.
2. Because of [the COVID] crisis, farmers seem more eager to support hunger-fighting orgs - we even have farmers planting rows of produce just for us this winter!
3. Being able to purchase more fresh produce to increase percentage of healthy foods we offer to the community.
4. Diversifying what we are able to get -- due to extra funds late in season, had a lot more winter crops than usual; were also able to support a local cranberry farmer and get some more fruit into the Food Bank.

Describe challenges you've faced with this year's F2FP initiative
Getting a lot of funding late in the season was a blessing in disguise - we were able to partner with some new amazing farmers and get unique produce, but it was difficult to go through that spend late in the season. I know that with advanced planning around COVID, 2021 funding will be able to be spread throughout the year better, so not necessarily something that needs changing, but was a challenge.

Describe any partnerships you developed through this year's F2FP initiative
We developed new relationships primarily on the farming side this year, as the partner agency component of the program remained relatively stagnant. These new farmers were: Good Rain Farm, April Joy Farm, Cruel Mistress Cranberries, and Sprout and Blossom Farm.

Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?
Nutrient density was not on top-of-mind; however, I believe we do get nutrient-dense food as a byproduct of the program.

How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?
Because we also have our own farm at the CCFB, we are fortunate to have data our clients give us regarding the most valued produce from our farm. We aim to get produce that matches these requests while also looking for items we may not be able to grow (like cranberries for example!) This year, the end of season influx in money meant that we were less selective in the last few partnerships we made, since winter produce is more limited in scope vs. summer produce.

Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?
Yes - for example, we receive literal tons of apples from the USDA. When a potential partnership with a local apple farmer materialized, we unfortunately could not commit to that contract as we were struggling to handle all the apples we already had in storage.
Coastal Harvest
Grays Harbor, WA
2nd year partner

Counties Served: Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Wahkiukum

Food Pantry Partners:
Feed the Hungry/Catholic Community Services, Aberdeen Food Bank, Hoquiam Food & Clothing Bank, SDA Food Bank, Copalis Beach Food Bank, Ocean Shores Food Bank

Coastal Harvest is a Food Bank distribution center serving seven Southwest WA counties. The organization provides food to 52 partner programs including food pantries, feeding programs, a mobile food bank, senior centers, and backpack programs. Within these programs, Coastal Harvest serves six Coast Salish Tribes.

Grays Harbor County Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 72,779*</th>
<th>Total number of clients receiving service: 10,965**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 14.4%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 65,924**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020) One Food Pantry Partner listed is not a TEFAP site and their data is not represented.

Coastal Harvest received $3,954 from the WSDA grant.

Website: www.coastalharvest.us

Farmer Partners:
Randall St. Community Garden, Sky Island Farms

Pounds of Produce Purchased: 2,529 lbs.
**Types of Produce Purchased:**
Acorn squash, apples, artichoke, arugula, blueberries, bay leaves, braising mix, baby kale, basil, beets, beet greens, cabbage, carrots, celery, cilantro, collards, cucumbers, fava beans, fennel, garlic, grapes, green beans, green onion, leek, lettuce (head, mix), mixed greens, oregano, peas (shelling, pod), radish, sage, snap beans, spinach, spring mix, strawberry, summer squash, swiss chard, tomatoes (grape, plum) winter squash, yellow onions, zucchini

**Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 145 lbs.**

**Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:**
Cucumber, lettuce, radish, zucchini

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**Lead Agency Perspective:**

*Describe successes or achievements of this year’s F2FP initiative*
The fact that we are still able to work with farmers during this time.

*Describe challenges you’ve faced with this year’s F2FP initiative*
Again, how we communicated with farmers when it came to delivery. Social distancing.

*Describe any partnerships you developed through this year’s F2FP initiative*

*Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?*

*How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?*
No issue there. Everything bought is welcomed by clients in need.

*Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?*
No.
Community Action of Skagit County
Mt. Vernon, WA
5th year partner

Counties Served: Island, Skagit, Snohomish

Food Pantry Partners:
Arlington Community Food Bank, Alger Food Bank, Anacortes 100 Food Bank, Community Covenant, Church Food Bank, Concrete Food Bank, Hamilton Community Foodbank, Helping Hands Food Bank, His Pantry Food Bank at Camano Chapel, La Conner Sunrise Food Bank, The Salvation Army, Skagit Valley Neighbors In Need, Skagit Food Distribution Center, North Whidbey Help House, Stanwood Camano Food Bank Services, Tri-Parish Food Bank, Friendship House, YMCA Oasis Teen Shelter, Open Door Community Kitchen, Helping Hands - Marblemount

Community Action of Skagit County is a community-based, private nonprofit organization unaffiliated with any government agency. We serve in Skagit County and partner with a nationwide network of Community Action agencies established under the Economic Opportunity Action of 1964 to move local families and communities from poverty to prosperity.

### Skagit County Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 125,612*</th>
<th>Total number of clients receiving service: 98,910**</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 12.0%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 695,630**</td>
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</table>

### Island County Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 82,866*</th>
<th>Total number of clients receiving service: 2,257**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 7.8%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 5,072**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Snohomish County Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 798,808*</th>
<th>Total number of clients receiving service: 6,456**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 7.5%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 42,426**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate  
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020) One Food Pantry Partner listed data is not represented in TEFAP data. Data for that food pantry partner was self-reported by the food pantry.

Skagit County Community Action received $5,533 from the WSDA grant and $2,302 in community matching funds raised by individual donation and at Take a Bite for Skagit community fundraising event.

**Website:** [www.communityactionskagit.org](http://www.communityactionskagit.org)

### Farmer Partners:
Lopez Brothers Farm, Highwater Farm, NW Green Farm, Waxwing Farm, Long Hearing Farm, Well Fed Farm, Eldur Heron Farm

### Pounds of Produce Purchased: 6,126 lbs.

### Types of Produce Purchased:
Beets, dry beans, green beans, chilacayote squash, radishes, romaine lettuce, snow peas, tomatillos

### Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 10,506 lbs.

### Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:
Cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, summer squash, winter squash

### Lead Agency Perspective:

*Describe successes or achievements of this year’s F2FP initiative*
Successfully incorporated some new farms into the program this year.

*Describe challenges you’ve faced with this year’s F2FP initiative*
Nothing crazy beyond what everyone has faced.
Describe any partnerships you developed through this year's F2FP initiative
No new partnerships developed, but existing relationships with community members were strengthened via their desire to donate matching funds from their $1,200 stimulus checks.

Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?
Not at this time.

How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?
We took anecdotal information from partner pantries to acquire culturally appropriate foods.

Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?
Yes, we make a point of contracting for less-commonly available items or at least those that don't get donated frequently in large amounts.
**Council on Aging & Human Services**  
*Colfax, WA*  
5th year partner

**Counties Served:** Whitman

**Food Pantry Partners:**  
Albion Food Pantry, Colfax Food Pantry, Colton/Uniontown Food Pantry, Endicott Food Pantry, Garfield (La Dow) Food Pantry, La Crosse Food Pantry, Malden/Pine City Food Bank, Oakesdale FP, Palouse Food Pantry, Rosalia Food Pantry, St. John Food Pantry, Tekoa Food Pantry

The Council on Aging & Human Services is a community of caring staff members, board members, and volunteers who share a common purpose to help each individual experience an optimum quality of life.

**Whitman County Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>49,231*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate</td>
<td>26.5%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of clients receiving service</td>
<td>2,056**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients</td>
<td>16,193**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate  
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020)

Council on Aging received $2,807 from the WSDA grant and $2,200 to pay farmers for their seeds, soil, amendments, and tools through the Department of Health's SNAP-Ed grant. They also received $5,608 in community matching funds, through private donations.

**Website:** www.coacolfax.org
**Farmer Partners:** Runner Bean Ranch, WSU Organics Farm, Pioneer Produce

**Pounds of Produce Purchased:** 4,826 lbs.

**Types of Produce Purchased:**
Spinach, chard, garlic, rhubarb, summer squash, salad mix, kale, green cabbage, Napa cabbage, zucchini, cucumbers, carrots, beets, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, butterhead lettuce, yellow onion, delicata squash, sugar dumpling squash, acorn squash, spaghetti squash, pie pumpkin, red onion, bok choy, romaine lettuce, red head lettuce, snow peas, beet greens, carrots, eggplant, walnuts, strawberries, garlic

**In Addition to the Farm Partners listed above, Donated Produce was Provided by:**
Backyard Harvest

**Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated:** 1,501 lbs.

**Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:**
Cucumbers, carrots, gourds, plums, pears, apples, zucchini, tomatoes, plums, summer squash, acorn squash, apples, other various squash, walnuts, soup mix

**Lead Agency Perspective:**

*Describe successes or achievements of this year’s F2FP initiative*
We were able to get produce to all of the outlying communities this year with much greater ease than normal.

*Describe challenges you’ve faced with this year’s F2FP initiative*
We have had so much produce it’s hard to get rid of it all in a timely fashion.

*Describe any partnerships you developed through this year’s F2FP initiative*
None.

*Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?*
No.

*How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?*
We purchased items they were more likely to take.

*Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?*
No, we don’t get that many produce donations.
Good Cheer Food Bank
Langley, WA
1st year partner

Counties Served: Island

Good Cheer’s innovative Food Bank is at the core of our mission. We provide healthful food — including fresh locally-grown produce — to an average of 850 families each month. The Good Cheer Gleaners bridge the gap between ‘too much’ and ‘not enough’, connecting community members with extra fruit to those in need. Gleaned fruit is brought to the Good Cheer Food Bank to be added to the produce section or shared with community partners.

### Island County Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 82,866*</th>
<th>Total number of clients receiving service: 2,257**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 7.8%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 5,072**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate
**TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020).

Good Cheer Food Bank received $3,428 from the WSDA grant and raised an additional $500 in matching funds through individual donations.

**Website:** [www.goodcheer.org](http://www.goodcheer.org)

**Farm Partners:**
Deep Harvest Farm, Foxtail Farm, Orchard Kitchen, Organic Farm School

**Pounds of Produce Purchased: 2,266 lbs.**

**Types of Produce Purchased:**
Onions, lettuce, daikon radish, watermelon radish, rutabaga, turnips, chicory, onions, garlic, beets, kale, collards, potatoes, brussels sprouts
In Addition to the Farm Partners listed above, Donated Produce was Provided by:
Good Cheer Garden, Good Cheer Gleaners, Rotary Gleaners, and local gardeners

Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 26,893 lbs.

Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:
Arugula, basil, beans, beets, bok choy, braising mix, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cilantro, corn, cucumber, dill, greens, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, mustard greens, onions, parsley, parsnips, peas, peppers, potato, radish, rutabaga, salad mix, spinach, strawberry, tomato, turnip, summer squash, winter squash

Lead Agency Perspective:

Describe successes or achievements of this year's F2FP initiative
The last week of November, all of our produce offerings--and it was a very diverse selection--were all local products from both F2FP and our gardens.

Describe challenges you've faced with this year's F2FP initiative
We didn't face any challenges.

Describe any partnerships you developed through this year's F2FP initiative
N/A

Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?
Not directly. The farmers we purchase from care about their soil so there's a good chance that the produce we purchased was inherently more nutrient-dense than produce items grown at a larger scale.

How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?
We try to focus on purchasing the items that people request the most often while also balancing.

Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?
Yes. We only contracted for crops that would be delivered in November and December. Donations in the summer, as well as our gardens, usually meet our produce needs. Our highest demand for produce is November-April so that is when we focus on purchasing from local farmers.
Hopelink  
*Carnation, WA*  
5th year partner

**Counties Served:** King

**Food Pantry Partners:**  
*Hopelink food pantries:* Kirkland/NorthShore, Bellevue, Redmond, Carnation, Shoreline; Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank, Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank, Holy Innocents Food Pantry

Hopelink Harvest is the hub of Hopelink's efforts to increase access to healthy food. Through partnerships with local farms, farmers markets, community gardens, and individual growers, the Hopelink Harvest program collects donations of surplus produce for distribution at Hopelink food banks. Together, they are growing a healthier community for everyone!

**King County Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 2,195,502*</th>
<th>Total number of clients receiving service: 37,355**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 8.9%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 289,305**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 King County American Community Survey 5-year estimate  
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020) One Food Pantry Partner listed is not a TEFAP site and their data is not represented.

Hopelink Harvest received $4,130 from the WSDA grant, and $500 in match from Hopelink funding.

**Website:** www.hopelink.org/take-action/hopelink-harvest

**Farmer Partners:** One Leaf Farm, Oxbow Farm, Sound Sustainable Farms

**Pounds of Produce Purchased:** 2,577 lbs.
Types of Produce Purchased:
Beets, cabbage, carrots, chard, cucumber, kale, lettuce, tomatoes, bok choy, jalapeños, tomatillos, serrano peppers, broccoli, basil, green beans, cauliflower, radishes, broccolini, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, thyme, summer squash, oregano

Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 4,025 lbs.

Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated
Arugula, beets, bok choy, broccoli, broccolini, cauliflower, chard, cucumbers, green beans, kale, potatoes, summer squash, spinach

Lead Agency Perspective:
Describe successes or achievements of this year’s F2FP initiative
I was very happy that I was able to glean this year, even if my schedule was diminished by my other COVID responsibilities. The gleaning went without a hitch and it was definitely the highlight of my year. It was also really special to have been able to make up for the lack of my gleaning with the extra farm purchasing money to ensure that our clients were receiving fresh produce throughout this difficult time.

Describe challenges you’ve faced with this year’s F2FP initiative
My biggest challenge has been not being able to glean full-time this summer because I was also leading volunteers in packing the boxes of shelf-stable goods we are giving out instead of having our clients come in and shop in our food banks like before. We also have stopped the cooking demonstrations in our food banks as well.

Describe any partnerships you developed through this year’s F2FP initiative
This year in particular we have strengthened our partnership with Sound Sustainable Farms, one of our best gleaning partners.

Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?
No, we mainly focus on client preferences and under the assumption that fresh produce is more nutritious.

How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?
We are only able to focus more on client preferences with farm purchasing, which is one of the best aspects of the whole grant!

Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?
No.
Jefferson County Food Bank Association

Chimacum, WA

2nd year partner

Counties Served: Jefferson

Food Pantry Partners:
Quilcene Food Bank, Tri-Area Food Bank, Port Townsend Food Bank, Brinnon Food Bank

Jefferson County Food Bank Association serves county residents by providing food to those in need, in an equitable manner, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, ethnic origin, religious affiliation, or mental or physical handicap, while maintaining an attitude and atmosphere that recognizes the dignity of each individual.

Jefferson County Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 31,285*</th>
<th>Total number of clients receiving service: 8,191**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 13.0%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 60,281**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020)

Farmers partnering with Jefferson County Food Bank Association received funds totaling $4,305 from the WSDA grant. They also received $1,910 in community matching funds, through private donations.

Website: http://jeffersoncountyfoodbanks.org/index.html
**Farmer Partners:**
Spring Rain Farm, Dharma Ridge Farm, Red Dog Farm, Midori Farm, Space Twins Provisions, Mozaic Gardens, Sunfield Farm, Wild Forks Farm

**Pounds of Produce Purchased:** 2,301 lbs.

**Types of Produce Purchased:**
Beets, blueberries, bok choy, broccoli, brussels sprouts, kale, cabbage, carrots, chard, cilantro, corn, cucumber, lettuce, fresh herbs, leeks, salad mix, green peas, kale raab, radishes, strawberries, summer squash, tomatoes, eggplant, mixed berries, spinach, winter squash, greens, peppers

**In Addition to the Farm Partners listed above, Donated Produce was Provided by:**
Birchyville Food Bank Garden, Blessings Garden, Chimacum Creek Elementary School Garden, Adams Street Community Garden, Abundant Life, Chimacum Corner Farmstand, Collinwood Farm, Dundee Hill Organic Farm, Farms Reach Food Bank Garden, Fog Farms, North Beach Community Garden, Oak Street Gardens, Port Townsend High School Garden, Quimper Grange Food Bank Garden, Raincoast Food Bank Garden, RoseWind, Seed Dreams, Shy Acre Farm, Shooting Star Farm, Sunflower Farms, Swan Food Bank Farm, and home gardeners

**Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated:** 10,076 lbs.

**Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:**
Plant starts, beets, parsnip, potatoes, bok choy, salad greens, radishes, spinach, chard, kale, collards, rhubarb, salad mix, parsley, mustard greens, fresh herbs, fava beans, turnips, peas, garlic scapes, cucumbers, carrots, mixed berries, mixed greens, beans, summer squash, apples, basil, peppers, broccoli, plums, zucchini, tomatoes, winter squash, pumpkin, onions, pears, arugula, lettuce
Food Pantry Partners:
Bainbridge Island Helpline House, Bremerton Foodline, Central Kitsap Food Bank, North Kitsap Fishline, Sharenet Food Bank, South Kitsap Helpline, St. Vincent de Paul Society, The Salvation Army, North Mason County Food Bank

As a recipient of WSDA F2FP funding, Kitsap Conservation District (KCD) contracts with local farms to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for delivery to food pantries. With community support KCD looks forward to amplifying local efforts to increase access to fresh produce through projects like the GRACE Garden while supporting Kitsap's farms.

Kitsap County Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population:</td>
<td>265,882*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate:</td>
<td>8.7%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of clients receiving service:</td>
<td>16,777**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients:</td>
<td>110,130**</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mason County Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population:</td>
<td>63,804*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of clients receiving service:</td>
<td>2,469**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients:</td>
<td>18,806**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020)
Kitsap Conservation District received $5,358 from the WSDA grant and $6,417 in matching funds from Kaiser Permanente, MultiCare Foundation, Central Kitsap Food Bank, and North Kitsap Fishline.

**Website:** https://kitsapcd.org/programs/grace-project

**Farmer and Community Partners:**
Ridge Top Urban Farm, Full Tilth Farm, Pheasant Fields Farm, Dusk to Dawn farm, Lovely Blueberries, Around the Table Farm, Bainbridge Island Farm, Courter Country Farm, Persephone Farm, Butler Greens, Fat Turnip Farm, Pumphouse Farm, Revolution Farms, Roots Farm, Walker Meadow Farm, Wintercreek Farm and Flower, Blackjack Valley Farm

**Pounds of Produce Purchased:** 9,845 lbs.

**Types of Produce Purchased:**
Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, radishes, green beans, green onions, spinach, tomatoes, cucumbers, winter squash, kale, chard, salad greens, pod peas, brussels sprouts

**In Addition to the Farm Partners listed above, Donated Produce was Provided by:**
Fishline Care and Share Garden, GRACE Project, Kingston Giving Garden

**Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated:** 42,894 lbs.

**Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:**
Broccoli, blueberries, cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, radishes, green onions, spinach, tomatoes, cucumbers, winter squash, kale, chard, brussels sprouts

**Lead Agency Perspective:**

*Describe successes or achievements of this year's F2FP initiative*
We added 8 farmers and brought our total number of farms to 14, gained inroads with farmers who were previously not interested in participating in F2FP, and infused $14,000 into the local farm economy. We did surveys at 2 food banks with 77 clients and gathered valuable information going forward.

*Describe challenges you've faced with this year's F2FP initiative*
The isolation of COVID, both with the farmers and food pantries, and the reduced capacity of the food banks due to fewer volunteers to really engage in acknowledging and promoting the farmers. We managed; it was just really weird.
Describe any partnerships you developed through this year’s F2FP initiative
Kitsap Harvest Gleaning Network, Kitsap Public Health District (SNAP Ed), Kitsap County
Farmers Market Alliance, Department of Corrections, WSU Kitsap Extension (SNAP Ed), Kitsap
Co. Solid Waste, Kitsap County Food Bank Coalition, Kitsap Department of Emergency
Management, Kitsap Community Foundation, Kitsap County United Way...and other
relationships and connections too numerous to mention.

Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for
donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?
Yes, sort of. Nils Johnson’s (WSU Stevens County Extension) original data on nutritional density
was paired with client preference results and farmers get a 5% bump in price for each.

How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for
donation/gleaning?
We conducted client preference surveys in 2017-2018. We continue to use that data and then
we conducted face to face surveys with 77 respondents at 2 pantries to refine purchasing and
planting plans.

Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase
decisions?
Not really. The USDA Farms to Families boxes were distributed via school districts and basically
everywhere. Anecdotal information indicates many of the families taking those were not the
same clients that use food banks regularly - they were just capitalizing on free groceries. There
was enough demand for food that the infusion of extra resources into the system was seen as
a benefit to all in the community.
N.E.W. Hunger Coalition  
Colville, WA  
7th year partner

Counties Served: Ferry, Pend Oreille, Stevens

Food Pantry Partners:  
Wellpinit Food Pantry, Addy Rescue Mission, Chewelah Food Pantry, Colville Food Pantry, Cusick Food Pantry, Ford Food Pantry, Hunters Food Pantry, Ione Food Pantry, Kettle Falls Food Pantry, Loon Lake Food Pantry, Northport Food Pantry, Peoples Pantry of Republic, Tum Tum Food Pantry, Valley Food Pantry, Orient Food Pantry

The Northeast Washington (N.E.W.) Hunger Coalition serves as a collaborative forum for all the individuals and groups working to meet the hunger relief needs of Stevens County. The Coalition is comprised of 15 independent food pantries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ferry County Statistics</th>
<th>Pend Oreille County Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population: 7,578*</td>
<td>Population: 13,377*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 17.3%*</td>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 12.7%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of clients receiving service: 1,242**</td>
<td>Total number of clients receiving service: 1,060**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 6,746**</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 6,298**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stevens County Statistics

Population: 44,655*
Poverty Estimate: 14.2%*

Total number of clients receiving service: 9,002***
Total number of services provided to clients: 66,278***

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate

** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020)

***TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020). Three food pantry partners listed are not TEFAP sites and their data is not represented.

N.E.W. Hunger Coalition received $7,639 from the WSDA grant and an additional $10,471 in match from private donations from the N.E.W. Hunger Coalition Annual Gala; commission on produce sold through the Farm to Community program to small rural grocery stores and from the LINC Farmers Coop for delivering orders.

Website: www.newhungercoalition.org

Farmer and Community Partners:
Dog Wild Farm, Front Porch Farm, Kowlitz Family Farms, Meadowlark Farm, Nils Ranch, Sunshine Springs Farm, Winniford Family Farm, Colville Corn Maze, Twin Springs Fruit Farm

Pounds of Produce Purchased: 16,550 lbs.

Types of Produce Purchased:
Beets, summer squash, tomato, salad greens, tomatillos, mixed berries, winter squash, corn, peaches, pears, and other mixed vegetables

In Addition to the Farm Partners listed above, Donated Produce was Provided by:
Agape Acres, Davenport Hutterian Brethren, Odessa Hutterian Brethren, and individual donations

Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 27,334 lbs.

Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:
Apples, beets, celery, corn, green peppers, potatoes, rhubarb, tomatoes, summer squash, winter squash, mixed vegetables, mixed fruit, mixed berries
Okanogan County Community Action Council  
Okanogan, WA  
6th year partner

Counties Served: Okanogan

Food Pantry Partners:
Brewster Food, Conconully Food Bank, Okanogan Food Pantry, Omak Food Bank, Oroville Food Bank, The Cove, Tonasket Emergency Food Bank

Okanogan County Community Action Council (OCCAC), is a cornerstone of the community effort to end poverty through education and employment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Okanogan County Statistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population: 41,842*</td>
<td>Total number of clients receiving service: 16,483**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 19.5%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 115,421**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate  
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020)

Okanogan County Community Action Council received $4,656 from the WSDA grant and raised an additional $1,733 in local matching funds.

Website: www.occac.com

Farmer and Community Partners:
Iris Rock Farm, Filaree Garlic Farm, Little River Farm, The King’s Garden, Okanogan School District School Gardens, Smallwood Farms, Yonder Farm

Pounds of Produce Purchased: 4,896 lbs.
**Types of Produce Purchased:**
Squash, tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, pumpkins, zucchini, carrots, shallots, sweet potatoes, watermelons, Walla Walla sweet onions, red sweet peppers, plant starts (pumpkin, tomato, cucumber, squash, corn, astro arugula, parsley)

**Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 790 lbs.**

**Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:**
Squash, onions, cucumbers, peppers, pumpkins, sweet corn, zucchini, plant starts (pumpkin, tomato, squash, cucumber, corn, arugula, parsley)

**Lead Agency Perspective:**

*Describe successes or achievements of this year’s F2FP initiative*
We were successful in acquiring new vendors as well as continue to provide fresh produce through our food pantries, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Describe challenges you’ve faced with this year’s F2FP initiative*
The COVID-19 pandemic challenged our efforts to assist the public at every turn. We faced challenges with the state lockdown, finding/keeping volunteers, hiring staff, meeting the needs of the public (for increased food needs and other services), extra steps in food safety/food handling, limited capacity, and more.

*Describe any partnerships you developed through this year’s F2FP initiative*
Local schools, farms, orchards, and farmers markets.

*Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?*
N/A

*How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?*
Due to the pandemic, we were limited in providing client preferences, however, we gave client voice whenever possible.

*Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?*
No - we purchased anything that was offered/available and accepted any and all donations.
Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington

Yakima, WA
2nd year partner

Counties Served: Yakima

Food Pantry Partners:
OIC of Washington Food Bank

Aimed at supplementing the diets of low-income Americans including the elderly by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost. OIC’s Food Bank is also the central distribution agency for Yakima County which distributes food commodities to other food banks through Yakima Valley.

Yakima County Statistics

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population:</td>
<td>249,697*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate:</td>
<td>17.4%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of clients</td>
<td>9,628**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of services</td>
<td>66,604**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate
** TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020)

Opportunities Industrialization Center (O.I.C.) of WA received $2,200 to pay farmers for their seeds, soil, amendments, and tools through the Department of Health's SNAP-Ed grant.

Website: www.yvoic.org

Farmer Partners:
Imperial’s Garden

Pounds of Produce Purchased: 1,728 lbs.

Types of Produce Purchased:
Eggplant, jalapeño, mixed peppers, spaghetti squash, butternut squash, seedless watermelon, green bell pepper, tomatoes, green beans
Lead Agency Perspective:

Describe challenges you've faced with this year’s F2FP initiative
The biggest challenge still is the pandemic, and having the farmers engage.

Describe any partnerships you developed through this year’s F2FP initiative
Our main partner is Imperial’s Garden and they are always available and ready to help us.

Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?
Our community is in need of everything, we accept most of all the donations.

How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?
Our clients are pretty vocal when they visit our food bank; they do ask for certain products or they ask if we are able to get it.

Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?
Sometimes, but just in regard to space.
Upper Valley MEND  
*Leavenworth, WA*  
6th year partner

**Counties Served:** Chelan

**Food Pantry Partners:**  
Community Cupboard Food Bank

Community Cupboard is a program of Upper Valley MEND, which was formed as a food pantry by area churches in 1983. The program includes a food pantry, thrift store and emergency family assistance. Community Cupboard is one of twelve food pantries operated by the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chelan County Statistics</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population: 76,229*</td>
<td>Total number of clients receiving service: 897**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate: 11.7%*</td>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients: 6,600**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate  
**Self Reported by Food Pantry

Upper Valley MEND received $4,305 from the WSDA grant and contributed an additional $550 in match.

**Website:** www.uvmend.org

**Farmer Partners:**  
Annie’s Fun Farm, Easley Farms, Gau-Sco Farm, Hope Mountain Farm, Overwinter Farms, Snowgrass Farm

**Pounds of Produce Purchased:** 3,277 lbs.
Types of Produce Purchased:
Radishes, mixed greens, mint, oregano, turnips, lettuce, daikon radish, cucumbers, poblanos, peppers, jalapeños, blackberries, lettuce, baby mizuna, kale, cabbage, beets, raspberries, squash, spaghetti squash, corn, peaches, green beans, spring mix, arugula, microgreens, spinach, chard, bell peppers, watermelon, blueberries, currants, corn, cantaloupe, honeydew

Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated: 6,131 lbs.

Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:
Lettuce, kale, basil, radishes, zucchini, chard, mint, oregano, cucumbers, zucchini, corn, potatoes, green beans, beets, carrots, mixed greens, arugula, spinach, green onions, broccoli

Lead Agency Perspective:

Describe successes or achievements of this year’s F2FP initiative
We made contracts with more farms than ever before, and successfully utilized almost all of the money allocated by Harvest Against Hunger. We also brought on other food distributors, Cashmere Food Bank and Chelan/Douglas Community Action Council, so that produce was more widely distributed.

Describe challenges you've faced with this year's F2FP initiative
Many of the vegetables we purchased were also available for us to glean, so at times it became hard to find something to purchase. It all ended up working out though!

Describe any partnerships you developed through this year’s F2FP initiative
Cashmere Food Bank, Chelan Douglas County Community Action Council (CDCAC)

Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?
No.

How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?
We purchased vegetables we had a hard time getting a hold of through gleaning. We also tried to cater to diverse diets and populations that utilize our food bank.

Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?
Yes. We knew we would receive/glean lots of greens, fruit, cucumbers, and squash, meaning we didn't need to purchase any of these things.
WSU Clallam County Extension

*Port Angeles, WA*

5th year partner

**Counties Served:** Clallam

**Food Pantry Partners:**
Sequim Food Bank, Port Angeles Food Bank, Forks Food Pantry

**Tribal Food Pantry Partners:**
Jamestown S’Klallam Food Pantry, Lower Elwha Food Pantry, Neah Bay Food Pantry, Quileute Food Pantry

The WSU Clallam County Extension programs connect the people and communities of Clallam County with the knowledge base of Washington State University to promote quality of life and advance economic well-being through fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

**Clallam County Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>75,392*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Estimate</td>
<td>14.5%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of clients receiving service</td>
<td>12,688**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of services provided to clients</td>
<td>78,374**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate

**TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020).
Three of the six food pantries in Clallam County that received produce through F2FP are Tribal programs. Their EFAP statistics are captured below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Total number of clients receiving service:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jamestown Tribe</td>
<td>139**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,257**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Elwha Tribe</td>
<td>1,109***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,802***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quileute Tribe</td>
<td>248***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>932***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe is not a TEFAP site, EFAP data was supplemented.
***TEFAP Client Data (Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2020).

Farmers partnering with WSU Clallam County Extension received funds totaling $3,954 from the WSDA grant and $1,220 in community matching funds from Country Aire, 10,000 Years Institute, and individual donations.


**Farmer Partners:**
Chi's Farm, Joy Farm, Reaume Farm, The Farm, Purple House Farm, River Run Farm, Wild Edge Farm

**Pounds of Produce Purchased:** 3,084 lbs.

**Types of Produce Purchased:**
cauliflower, potatoes, beets, green onions, radishes, lettuce, squash, snap peas, basil, carrots, turnips, corn, cucumber, cabbage, swiss chard, leeks, green beans, onions, beet greens, summer squash, raspberries, cherry tomatoes, spinach, turnips, kale, brussels sprouts, romanesco

**Pounds of Produce Gleaned + Donated:** 155 lbs.

**Types of Produce Gleaned + Donated:**
cherry tomatoes, tomatoes, carrots, cauliflower, turnips, onions
Lead Agency Perspective:

Describe successes or achievements of this year’s F2FP initiative 
We were able to deliver all the produce to the food banks despite the chaos of COVID. We brought back a farm who had been involved with the program a few years ago. We were able to reach all of the food banks despite the challenges.

Describe challenges you’ve faced with this year’s F2FP initiative
It was challenging figuring out when to have the farmers deliver food to the food banks because they had so much produce coming in from other places early on in the pandemic. I approached some new farmers with our extra funding, but many of them were so busy and overextended this year that they couldn't participate.

Was nutrient density of produce considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning? If so, what metrics informed your decisions?
No. I used feedback from the food bank managers on what they thought clients would be most likely to take. I also made sure not to request items that were already overrepresented by gleaning or food bank purchase.

How were client preferences considered when purchasing or receiving produce for donation/gleaning?
I have surveyed the food bank managers and asked them what produce items they think clients would be interested in. Then I combine all the feedback and make one produce list to give to all the farmers. I tell the farmers they can give the food banks any of the items on the list.

Did anticipated produce donations from other sources impact your contracting and purchase decisions?
We usually try to not ask for things like apples/kale/zucchini/pears...things that come in from gleaning. We also usually don't ask for things like onions and potatoes because the food banks usually have those already.
Community Farm Partner Reinvents Offerings, Adding a New Avenue For Donor Engagement | Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank

During peak growing season, both the Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank (BMAC) and local farms, including Hayshaker Farm, experienced supply chain problems, only on opposite sides. BMAC was running short on fresh produce and farms, who rely heavily on restaurant sales, had an excess of produce. On top of the slowing of restaurant demand, numbers at the local farmers market were also down. During mid-June, when the farmers market normally would be bustling with people carrying canvas bags with green freshness peeking from the top, local farms were forced to pivot how they sold their bounty. For Hayshaker Farm, an established partner in BMAC Farm to Food Pantry efforts, produce sales moved online.

“Once we saw the shutdowns coming, and a possible closing of the farmer’s market, we knew we needed to both find alternative outlets for excess produce, and reach our customers in a different way,” said Chandler Briggs, co-owner of Hayshaker Farm. “We witnessed several online models of farm collectives and food hubs working successfully in other communities, and immediately began building our online marketplace.”

Marketing creativity was expressed by area farmers experiencing disruptions in sales due to restrictions to normal markets. BMAC’s development department worked directly with Hayshaker Farm to create a F2FP fundraising plan within the farm’s own customer base. To foster fundraising and get more produce moved from farms into homes, Hayshaker Farm added a F2FP button at the top of their guest checkout. As supporters were adding beets and berries to their cart, many also tacked on generous donations that would be used by the BMAC Food Bank as a credit to purchase more produce from Hayshaker Farm. “The resulting donations helped our farm, allowing us to keep our full workforce and get paid for all our production,” said Briggs. “And it helped send more of our fresh produce into the homes of folks in need, by way of BMAC.” In addition to bringing in a new revenue stream for the farm and a new donor stream for BMAC, it raised awareness about the program and further emphasized how we’re all so deeply connected.

Financially the effort was a success, but perhaps equally important, this partnership allowed new people to discover the program and recognize the need for the F2FP connection. During the summer and early fall months, BMAC also added a more prominent F2FP donation area on their website. These two things, in combination with social media, made for a better understanding of the complicated food supply chain, as well as the local needs and opportunities within our community.

Because of this effort and the new funding streams, BMAC was able to purchase 3,882 pounds of fresh produce from Hayshaker Farm. Another 9,700+ pounds were generously donated by
the farm. “Receiving fresh local produce filled the gaps we experienced in the supply chain and allowed us to provide fresh carrots, potatoes, tomatoes and greens to clients at the peak of season. Additionally, donations through our website over the last seven months of the year raised over $8,300 and all went back into the local farming community,” reported Jeff Mathias, Director of BMAC Food Bank.

The F2FP Initiative has created growing relationships with area farmers to help sustain efforts to supply fresh nutritious produce to those that can't afford it. In a time of shifting priorities and ever-changing demands, we are reminded more than ever that local farms and food systems require involvement from the whole community to be successful. The benefits to neighbors and those in the local food system make this a worthwhile endeavor.

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**Farm to Freezer | Kitsap Conservation District**

Farm to Freezer began in Kitsap County as an idea by Kitsap Conservation District (KCD) Resource Planner Diane Fish three years ago as a possible answer to the question of how to make the produce donated to food banks more accessible to their patrons. KCD, now in their 2nd year as a Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP) lead agency, frequently takes in large quantities of produce donations from local F2FP partner farms and gleaning programs such as Kitsap Harvest. Some of these donations, like squash or beans, don't come ready to eat and can present a challenge for households that might not have the time or know-how to find usable recipes, or the equipment to prepare them. Diane was looking for a way to remove these barriers, and the solution was soup! With the help of TEFAP Farm to Food Bank funding from WSDA, KCD was able to start working with local restaurants last spring who took in donated or gleaned produce on a weekly basis, and made large batches of a variety of soups that could then be packaged, frozen, and distributed to food banks. They are able to use whatever food banks have a surplus of on hand, to both reduce waste and make products donated in bulk, such as dry beans, more
usable for patrons. As a part of the partnership to build in financial sustainability, restaurants established a buy-one, give-one model where they sold a portion of the soups to their usual customers and donated the rest to food banks.

Currently, the program encompasses 8 food banks and 14 farms, the number of partnerships having nearly doubled since the first year of operation. Farm to Freezer has been recognized in the community for its diverse benefits, supporting both hunger relief and local businesses. To support this project, KCD has been awarded new funding from sources such as the Kitsap Community Foundation, United Way of Kitsap County, Kitsap Bank, First Federal Community Foundation, and the Washington State Conservation Commission. While working with the Kitsap County Food Bank Coalition, KCD is hoping to see the program expand further to include greater quantities and varieties of meals, so it can become a meaningful revenue source for restaurants, and offer more opportunities for food banks and restaurants both. The program is establishing direct networks between businesses, farms, and food distributors, which will in turn create a more robust food network in the community.

Reformatting Food Distributions | Clark County Food Bank

Since the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed life in Washington State over the past year, the Clark County Food Bank (CCFB) has reimagined some of its distribution models to ensure that high quality food from the Farm to Food Pantry initiative safely makes its way into the community.

Prior to the pandemic, CCFB focused on distributing food through a network of 43 non-profit partners at 130 distribution sites. Although some of those locations were able to stay open, new and additional needs arose in the community. CCFB began hosting a Drive-Thru Distribution each Tuesday, serving pre-packaged boxes filled with a variety of fresh produce and dry and frozen goods to hundreds of community members each week. To respond to this need for affordable food from families in Clark County, CCFB also extended its Food Bank Fresh program, now providing year-round dry-foods kids boxes and fresh produce distribution pop-ups at Clark County schools. Beyond developing new distribution models to improve food access in a COVID-19 friendly manner, CCFB also expanded the base of farmers participating in the Farm to Food Pantry initiative, providing critical financial assistance to local farms and increasing the types of produce the Food Bank can serve to its clients.
Takeaways and Perspectives from Food Pantries

Lead agencies reached out to participating food pantries to answer questions to determine how the Farm to Food Pantry initiative impacted their service. A total of 11 food pantries provided feedback.

Key Observations

Describe successes/achievements for you or your food pantry that came about due to participating in the F2FP initiative this season:

- We were allowed to help more people.
- I think a lot of people tried new produce.
- Fresh produce made available to those on limited incomes is always a success story. We have some language barrier issues, but words of appreciation (regardless of language) are always recognizable.
- Lots of fresh, local, healthy produce into the hands of vulnerable families. We involved some new farm partners this year so our variety of produce was even greater!
- We were able to have more variety and a larger quantity of local produce available longer into the season than ever before!
- Clients loved the produce boxes.
- Saw a lot of positive posts on Facebook. They complained when we didn't have that fresh produce.

Describe any challenges that came about due to participating in the F2FP initiative:

- Storage space (at times)
- Volunteers
- The only real challenge was the ongoing issue of storage at the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council's food distribution warehouse. Due to the amount of COVID-related emergency food they occasionally didn't have enough capacity to store and distribute our gleaned food. F2FP food, however, was more easily distributed.
- The extra box was a lot for our home delivery drivers, but we added additional drivers.
- Storing the produce, having enough, wasting it, and not knowing when we were getting it.

Please share a story (no names needed) of how produce from the F2FP initiative helped one or more of your clients:

- We have a family that has 10 members. The mother has multiple brain tumors and is unable to work. She has lost sight in one eye and constantly has to battle fatigue, loss of mobility and other problems that pop up due to her tumors. She relies on the food bank to feed her family. Before having access to foods here, she often went to bed hungry having to give her share of food to her kids. She now is able to remove one worry and focus more on her health.
- We had comments from several people now living in apartments who told us they were appreciative of the fresh produce now that they no longer had their own yards and gardens.
Many of the seniors living in the apartments around the corner from the Community Cupboard expressed their appreciation for the amount and variety of fresh produce. I heard more than one story about people not needing to go to the grocery store because they had better options at the food bank!

A lot of our clients suffer from multiple chemical sensitivities and similar conditions. They appreciated the increased availability and variety of chemical-free produce throughout the fall and into winter.

We have 82 households that are COVID-19 positive that we deliver to. The success story would be that we get to deliver healthy, local food that helps them fight this virus. We spent $300,000 on food in 2020 and $30,000 in 2019. We could not afford all this beautiful produce so having it here for free for us was a huge relief. We want to focus on healthy food, but when you’re in crisis and numbers grew so fast, the food banks could not keep up with the demand, so we put our cash into staples.

How can we improve the F2FP initiative for you and your clients?

- It is good to tell folks where the produce is coming from, but having a separate piece of paper for each type of produce with your sticker, the produce name and the farm name was cumbersome. We used 1 piece of paper and one sticker and listed the produce/corresponding farms...much easier to manage.
- Boxes that have different produce from what we receive through TEFAP.
- Communicate better on the when and how much, don’t put in fruits that will leak/mold so we don’t waste the food, give gift cards to bulk up for the soft fruits.

Takeaways and Perspectives from Farmers

Lead agencies reached out to their participating farmers to answer questions to determine how the F2FP initiative impacted their business. A total of 36 farmers provided feedback.

Was F2FP a more important part of your operations, less important or about the same due to COVID-19?

- More important
- About the same
- Less important

![Chart showing 70.3% of respondents saying F2FP was more important, and 27.0% saying it was about the same due to COVID-19.]
We were extremely reliant on Farm to Food Pantry this year and would have not been able to move our produce because of disruption in distribution with some of our restaurant vendors. We also were short on hiring help, which put more pressure on us to focus on labor. We are focusing more on working with all of the food banks in our county, as it is more rewarding and we can get a better price than working with our local grocery stores. We will also be focusing on providing bulk items to local canners, as this was a hit this year due to COVID-19. We will also continue to build our clients at Sarge’s Farmstand where SNAP and food stamps are permitted. We were able to add a couple of new produce items - colored cauliflower, pumpkins, and apples, which were all a big hit this year at Sarge’s Farmstand.

- We were extremely reliant on Farm to Food Pantry this year and would have not been able to move our produce because of disruption in distribution with some of our restaurant vendors. We also were short on hiring help, which put more pressure on us to focus on labor. We are focusing more on working with all of the food banks in our county, as it is more rewarding and we can get a better price than working with our local grocery stores. We will also be focusing on providing bulk items to local canners, as this was a hit this year due to COVID-19. We will also continue to build our clients at Sarge’s Farmstand where SNAP and food stamps are permitted. We were able to add a couple of new produce items - colored cauliflower, pumpkins, and apples, which were all a big hit this year at Sarge’s Farmstand.
- In addition to the support offered by programs such as F2FP, the most successful adjustment we made to sales and marketing this year was to build a farm stand and target direct-to-consumers sales more actively.
- Having the Farm to Food Pantry financial help at the beginning of the season was incredibly helpful in allowing me to cover expenses when I had no income at that time. I also began selling food onsite on my farm so folks didn't have to go to crowded grocery stores, which worked very well.
- We adapted. Early on we realized that this summer was going to be very different. More demand from CSA, direct sales, and interest from emergency food programs offset all our potential losses.
- We decided to not go to farmers market this year. Instead we nearly doubled our CSA and built an outdoor covered area off our barn for open-air and drive-up pick up. We also added an online vegetable marketplace to our website.
• We began to offer pre-orders online. We also made weekly deliveries in the spring (beginning when the farmers' market was closed) at a central location other than the farmers' market.
• Greater reliance on direct marketing and F2FP.
• We quickly grew our CSA, teamed up with a few groups to distribute food to those in our community who needed it most, tapped into various grants, and built a new website and hired on more help!
• We shifted from direct-to-restaurant sales and sold CSA subscriptions, online farm orders for pickup at farm the next day, onsite farmstand, and also direct delivery to homes. We also partnered with organizations such as Farestart, Jewish Family Services, Seattle Tilth, Farms4Life, Hopelink, etc. to get them fresh, organic produce to feed the hungry.
• I knew early on we needed to make changes in our marketing plan. If you were to survive, you needed to be innovative and "think out of the box."
• I developed direct-to-consumer sales. Built an area and equipment to clean the fruit, began building a brand. Invested in packaging.

Key Observations

Describe successes/achievements for you or your farming operations that came about due to participating in the F2FP initiative this season:
• The added contract amount this year saved our farm!
• We increased our customer base and developed the online pre-order delivery options as a new way to shop for our food.
• We were able to find an outlet for some of the excess items that did not sell at market or we just had too much of.
• We were able to really clear out the last of our fall/winter food from the fields and bring them to the Food Bank. It felt really good to eek out one last paycheck but also get all the food possible to the community.
• It was an easy, rewarding way to support the food bank's efforts to feed our community healthy food.
• We were able to sell all of our overproduction.
• Less food waste, more flexibility getting food to foodbank (mid week vs. after farmers market), some revenue.
• For various reasons, I chose not to participate in farmers' markets this past season, and F2FP allowed me to remain connected to people who need produce, and gave me a place to distribute my vegetables that would have otherwise gone to waste.
• Closer connection with local food bank, improved communication to schedule gleans.
• Good PR via social media. Received individual private donations for food banks as a result of getting systems in place via F2FP.
• We were able to invest the funds into needed expenses.
• More sales opportunities, but more than that is the local aspect of providing high quality, nutrient rich produce to folks who otherwise couldn’t get it.
• Getting our produce to folks who otherwise might not have access to it!
• Continuing a good relationship with our local food bank.
• Trying new vegetables for people to enjoy.
• We were able to increase income & funnel produce to a needed market.
• I was able to deliver fresh produce in a timely, cost-effective manner.
• Additional financial resource that aids in reinvestment in my farm.
• I used a new (to me) method to grow beets this year, which was somewhat successful as a production operation, but very successful as a learning experience. Based on what I learned last season, I think I can double my production of beets in the same amount of growing area as last year.
• We were able to sell all that we produced.
• Customers who were aware of our participation in the F2FP program liked knowing that we were involved.
• Increased and stronger connections with our local food bank and folks that work with them.

What are your motivations for being involved in the F2FP initiative?

• I love working with organizations that connect those that need food the most to local farms. I want folks regardless of finances to have access to the best local food they can.
• To really make an effort to get edible food out of the field and to those in need. We are really hungry for creative, effective, and easy ways to say yes to getting as much food to as many people as we can. Unfortunately, we are concerned about our bottom line and run on a lean budget, almost 90% of all our revenue is reinvested back into the farm currently as we continue to pay labor and obtain needed infrastructure.
• It is extremely important for us to make sure that people have access to fresh produce and fruits, especially the economically disadvantaged and elderly.
• Diversification of our markets and the overall good feeling of helping our local food bank extend their season.
We really enjoy connecting with the local food bank, their customers, and other food programs in our community! It's great to connect with folks we might not otherwise have access to our produce. Having an additional sale is nice too.

We want to stay connected with our local food banks as a way of maintaining relevancy in the food system. We are committed to feeding our local population in ways that meet their needs.

Additional sales outlet and I appreciate the opportunity to provide fruit to those who may not otherwise afford it.

Food justice - getting fresh organic produce to underserved communities.

Most efficient way to supply food banks.

We love our local food bank and working with them to support our community's health.

It's important to us to get fresh food to food pantries. We're not always able to donate.

Building a strong food-secure community.

It is a great opportunity for us to contribute to the emergency food programs, alleviate food insecurity, and be paid for our produce. We donate a lot of food, and the ability to have an account with our local food bank makes a huge difference to our small business.

I believe in the mission and wanted to supply a crop (beets) that is in demand every year but in short supply. Also, from a financial perspective, I wouldn't have been able to afford seed and growing medium without the F2FP program.

Feeding the local communities. Nobody should be going hungry, and we love that we can help this cause.

Helps local farmers & provides local healthy food to our community members.

Eliminate waste and spoilage and help my community.

Feed those in need with extra produce from the farm.

To get food to families that need real food.

Support fair food distribution.
List of Participating Farms by County

**Chelan**
Hope Mountain Farm  
Tierra Garden Organics  
Gau-Sco Farm  
Easley Farms  
Overwinter Farms  
Annie's Fun Farm  
Oh Yeah! Farms  
Snowgrass Farm

**Jefferson**
Spring Rain Farm  
Dharma Ridge Farm  
Red Dog Farm  
Midori Farm  
Space Twins Provisions  
Sunfield Farm  
Wild Forks Farm  
Mozaic Gardens

**Kitsap**
Bainbridge Island Farms  
Dusk to Dawn Farm  
Full Tilth Farm  
Lovely Blueberries  
Pheasant Fields Farm  
Ridge Top Urban Farm  
Around the Table Farm  
Courter County Farm  
Persephone Farm  
Butler Greens  
Wintcreek Farm and Flower Revolution Farms  
Walker Meadow Farm  
Pumphouse Farm  
Fat Turnip Farm

**Skagit**
Well Fed Farm  
Waxwing Farm  
Eldur Heron Farm  
Highwater Farm  
Lopez Brothers Farm  
NW Green Farm

**Snohomish**
Long Hearing Farm  
One Leaf Farm

**Spokane**
Dog Wild Farm  
Song Sparrow Farms  
Full Bushel Farm  
Elithorp Farm  
Frisson Farms  
Abundance Farm  
S&P Homestead  
Courage to Grow Farms  
Montague Heritage Farms  
Fresh Cut Farms

**Walla Walla**
A.R. Teals Produce  
Birch Creek Farms  
Frog Hollow Farm  
Hayshaker Farms  
Klicker's Strawberry Acres  
Locati/Ambrosa  
R & R Produce  
Rowleys  
Welcome Table Farms

**Whitman**
Pioneer Produce  
Runner Bean Ranch  
WSU Organic Farm
Conclusion

The Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP) initiative offered a valuable solution for the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented along every step of the local food supply chain, as well as people’s ability to maintain food security. Funding invested in the F2FP initiative allowed many participating small farm businesses to stay afloat, supported healthy food access across diverse communities from rural to urban, and even facilitated greater food recovery efforts, as small farms that could remain economically viable could afford to provide donations and host gleans for hunger relief. The additional investment in the F2FP initiative provided by the state Legislature offered added relief to farms and food pantries, allowing new growers to be added and later-season crop purchases to be made at a critical time in hunger relief.

These multiplier impacts helped rally greater local match this year from individuals to community foundations seeking to support their communities through the crisis. F2FP initiative partners from both the farming and food assistance sectors worked together to develop new systems of food distribution, business development, and community outreach.

Common challenges faced by emergency food providers during the pandemic included loss of volunteer support and stretched refrigerated storage capacity from high volumes of perishable food entering from federal food donation programs. HAH expanded the Refrigerated Capacity Rebate initiative to support purchases or repair of refrigerated storage options at more than 100 food pantries statewide. Additionally, WSDA provided millions of dollars in Capacity grants. However, despite these investments, continuing trends highlight the need for further evaluation of capacity in the emergency food system across the state.

Further, the F2FP initiative’s structure, tools, and best practices developed over the past several years proved the initiative’s model scalability and replicability. This foundation allowed HAH to quickly expand its small farm-to-food assistance work in 2020 with other funding and program partners across public, private, and nonprofit sectors, ultimately supporting more small farms and food assistance providers across Washington. In response to this growth, HAH established a new “Farm to Community” umbrella program that will continue to expand, develop, and refine programs like the F2FP initiative.