



# Food Lifeline

## 2020 State Legislative Agenda

1 in 6 kids in Washington struggle with hunger...

**FOOD LIFELINE**  
HUNGER DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN

Food Lifeline is the Feeding America affiliate in western Washington and a founding member of Feeding Washington.

We prevent hunger by providing food to 300 local agency partners that work with vulnerable and low-income children, adults and seniors.

We provide the equivalent of 134,000 meals every day for their food assistance programs.

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### Food Systems

**Food Bank & Food Pantry Grants**—ACTIVELY SUPPORT establishing a grant program within WSDA to help hunger relief organizations expand and modernize storage and distribution infrastructure for perishable food.

**Washington Food Policy Forum**—ACTIVELY SUPPORT legislation to continue this public-private partnership created to promote Washington food system goals. [HB 1731, SB 6091]

**Farm to Food Pantry**—SUPPORT funding to expand this WSDA program that encourages produce donation and purchasing between local food pantries and small-scale farmers.

### Hunger and Health

**Fruit & Vegetable Nutrition Incentive**—ACTIVELY SUPPORT \$1.3 million in funding for programs that help SNAP participants afford more fruits and vegetables: Complete Eats Fruit and Vegetable Coupons, Farmers Market Match, Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program. [SB 5583]

**WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program**—ACTIVELY SUPPORT funding to increase program vouchers to no less than \$30 per client for each farmers market season. [HB 2262, SB 6309]

### Hunger Prevention

**State Food Assistance**—SUPPORT increased funding for state nutrition assistance programs, including Basic Food, Emergency Food Assistance Program, State Food Assistance Program, FINI, TANF, Transitional Food Assistance, Refugee Cash Assistance, Senior Nutrition Programs, WIC & Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, and Farm to Food Pantry.

**School Meals**—SUPPORT measures to improve access and availability of school nutrition programs, like increasing utilization of Community Eligibility Provision [HB 2660] and eliminating co-pays for Reduced Price School Lunches. [HB 1892]

### Poverty

**Working Families Tax Credit**—SUPPORT appropriations for this *passed, but yet to be funded*, tax code reform. Washington taxes low-income households at the highest rate of all Washingtonians — making our code the most regressive in the U.S. [HB 1527, SB 5810, SB 6557]

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**—SUPPORT undoing harmful recession-era policies to ensure families with children living in deep poverty have access to critical TANF resources and support. [HB 1603, SB 5684; HB 2441, SB 6478]

**State Housing Trust Fund**—SUPPORT investing \$10 million into the fund for continued preservation of affordable homes.

**Housing and Essential Needs**—SUPPORT increased funding for low-income services.

### Equity & Social Justice

**Washington State Office of Equity**—SUPPORT legislation to create an office to promote equity with state policy and systems change. [HB 1783, SB 5776]

### Tax, Budget, and Nonprofits

**Capital Gains Tax**—SUPPORT measures to rebalance Washington's regressive tax code while providing more revenue for community investments.

MONITOR any legislation impacting the regulatory or tax environment for nonprofits.