



Food Lifeline

Pandemic Hunger Response and 2021 State Advocacy Agenda

Hunger, Poverty, and Equity Priorities for COVID-19 Response and Recovery



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

We partner with many, including:

- Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
- Balance Our Tax Code Coalition
- Children's Alliance
- Feeding Washington
- Food Policy Forum
- Governor's Food Security Coordination Team
- Low-Income Housing Alliance
- Northwest Harvest
- Racial Equity Team
- Second Harvest
- Statewide Poverty Action Network
- Washington Anti-Poverty Advocates Workgroup
- Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby
- Washington Food Coalition
- Working Families Tax Credit Coalition

Food Systems

State Food System Resiliency—ACTIVELY SUPPORT WSDA's full budget request for state food system infrastructure and market access grants for farms, food processors and food distributors. \$15M

Food Bank Redistributor Investments—ACTIVELY SUPPORT measures to direct investment to regional hunger-relief organizations serving as redistribution hubs, to be used for facility, equipment, technology, and staff capacity improvements.

Farm to Food Pantry—SUPPORT budget request to expand this WSDA program that encourages produce donation and purchasing between local food pantries and small-scale farmers. \$700K

Washington Food Policy Forum—SUPPORT budget request to continue this public-private partnership created to promote Washington food system goals. \$600K

Hunger and Health

SNAP Fruit & Vegetable Nutrition Incentive—ACTIVELY SUPPORT DOH's \$3 budget request for programs that help SNAP participants afford more fruits and vegetables. \$3M

Washington Produce Donation—ACTIVELY SUPPORT measures to help fund large-scale procurement of donated Washington produce for hunger relief efforts statewide.

Hunger Prevention

Emergency Food Assistance Program—ACTIVELY SUPPORT WSDA's EFAP budget request for food & operational expenses at local food pantries and food bank distribution centers. \$23M

Food Assistance to SNAP Households—SUPPORT a one-time cash benefit and 5-month temporary food assistance program to help people who are transitioning off of SNAP or FAP enrollment. \$989K

Food Assistance Program—SUPPORT funding to provide the maximum food benefit level for people (legal immigrants) who qualify for FAP. FY21 \$6.7M

Food & Cash Assistance Benefit Reviews—SUPPORT pausing safety net benefit reviews until June 2021 for Basic Food, TANF, State Family Assistance, and Aged, Blind or Disabled programs. \$2.9M

School Meals—SUPPORT measures to improve access and availability of school nutrition programs, like Farm to School grant funding for local produce purchasing.

Poverty

Working Families Tax Credit/Recovery Rebate—ACTIVELY SUPPORT a direct cash assistance tax credit of at least \$500 for lower income workers disproportionately harmed by the pandemic.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families—SUPPORT measures to improve critical TANF resources and support offered to families with children living in deep poverty.

State Housing Trust Fund & Rental Assistance—SUPPORT measures to increase & preserve affordable housing and assistance for renters at risk of eviction.

Equity & Social Justice

Racial Equity—MONITOR for SUPPORT, policies aimed at dismantling institutional racism and inequitable and unjust systems that create and perpetuate determinants of hunger.

Washington State Office of Equity—SUPPORT fully funding the efforts of the state office of equity.

Digital Equity—SUPPORT measures to promote equity in digital broadband access to help more people connect to important safety net services, or educational and work opportunities.

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.