



2022 Washington State Legislative Session Summary

Each year, Food Lifeline sets out to work with legislative champions in Olympia and Washington DC on policies to solve hunger problems, protect successful safety net programs, and secure new investments for hunger relief efforts. We are happy to report progress in all these areas during the 2022 Washington State Supplemental Session.

Importantly, Food Lifeline recognizes our advocates and supporters, including partners that helped make this body of work possible: Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition, Northwest Harvest, Statewide Poverty Action Network, Racial Equity Team, Washington Anti-Poverty Advocates Workgroup, Faith Action Network, United Way of King County, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, Working Families Tax Credit Coalition, Balance Our Tax Code Coalition, Second Harvest, Feeding Washington, Washington Food Coalition, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Food Fighters and Opportunity for All Legislative Caucuses.

Highlights

The 2022 Washington State Legislature took extraordinary steps to expand free school meals to more than 90,000 kids and continue historic investments in hunger relief by funding nutrition programs with the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Importantly, the legislature appropriated significant funding for affordable housing, poverty reduction, and much needed community investment.

In addition, we helped advance legislation creating the Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management within the Washington State Department of Ecology. The Center's purpose will be to implement recommendations made by the Use Food Well Washington plan submitted to the legislature to achieve a 50 percent reduction in wasted food. The same bill also updates the Washington Good Samaritan Act to encourage more food donations.

It is important to note that many of the issues on our legislative agenda achieved broad bipartisan consensus. Also noteworthy is that we have a growing caucus of state representatives, the "Food Fighters," who champion hunger relief issues in Washington. We are grateful for their support.

Equity & Social Justice

Racial Equity | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: "Monitor for support, policies aimed at dismantling institutional racism and inequitable and unjust systems that create and perpetuate determinants of hunger."

Outcome: Mixed. Food Lifeline opposed three policing bills over racial equity concerns, HB 2037 (that passed), SB 5919 and HB 1788 (that did not). HB 2037 weakens recently enacted restrictions on police tactics and guidelines for when officers could use deadly force, and requirements for officers to intervene when witnessing such force. Additional measures addressing equity that we supported are listed below.

HB 2037, Rep Roger Goodman, Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers | Bipartisan vote? No

SB 5919, Sen Van De Wege, Standards for law enforcement authority to detain or pursue persons | Bipartisan vote?

No [Bill died in conference after floor votes]

HB 1788, Rep Robertson, Concerning vehicular pursuits [Bill died in committee]

SB 5793, Sen Claire Wilson, Concerning stipends for low-income or underrepresented community members of state boards, commissions, councils, committees, and other similar groups | Bipartisan vote? No

SB 5438, Sen Rebecca Saldana, Providing unemployment benefits to workers who are unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and not eligible for unemployment benefits due to immigration status [Bill died in committee]

HB 2075, Rep Strom Peterson, Directs the Department of Social and Health Services to maintain in-person services and not exceed set wait times | Bipartisan vote? Yes

SB 5749, Sen Yasmin Trudeau, Requires property owners to provide rental payment options in addition to online | Bipartisan vote? Yes

HB 1723, Rep Mia Gregerson, Closing the digital equity divide by increasing the accessibility and affordability of telecommunications services, devices, and training | Bipartisan vote? No

Poverty

Working Families Tax Credit | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Support implementation of direct cash assistance tax credit of \$300 to \$1,200 for lower income workers disproportionately harmed by the pandemic.”

Outcome: WIN. Two bills passed to provide a technical fix and fund education and outreach campaigns to encourage enrollment in the tax credit.

HB 1888, **HB 2096** Rep My-Linh Thai | Bipartisan vote? Yes | Total appropriation: \$10 million

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Support measures to improve access and strengthen program benefits.” **Outcome: WIN.** This assistance program is for families with children in deep poverty. It provides for things like housing and basic needs. The legislature extended the TANF hardship exemption for another year which also includes funding to cover all child-only TANF cases subject to the 60-month limit for the year. SB 5838 introduces a diaper subsidy for families with children under 3 years. And families with young children on TANF will receive an additional \$100/month as a cash increase, resulting in a net increase between \$62 and \$81 per family starting November 1, 2023. Maximum family size increased from 8 to 10. Starting July 1, 2022, families with 10 people will receive their full grant standard amount, resulting in up to \$250 more monthly.

2SHB 2048, Rep Strom Peterson; **SSB 5838**, Sen T’wina Nobles; **ESSB 5693**, Operating Budget | Bipartisan votes? Yes | Total appropriations: \$16.439 million

State Housing Trust Fund & Rental Assistance | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Support measures to increase & preserve affordable housing and assistance for renters at risk of eviction.” **Outcome: WIN.** The legislature approved substantial funding and multiple measures aimed at affordable housing and homelessness. Funded in the Supplemental Capital Budget: \$114 million for the Housing Trust Fund, \$240 million for Rapid Housing Acquisition, \$60 million for Permanent Supportive Housing and the new Apple Health and Homes program, \$79.7 million for weatherization of homes for low-income homeowners, and \$15 million for homeless youth facilities. Funded in the Supplemental Operating Budget: \$55 million for frontline homelessness service providers, \$2 million for pre-eviction legal aid, \$1.8 million for tenants' right to counsel, \$68 million for rental assistance, \$4.5 million for foreclosure prevention, \$100 million for utility assistance, \$45 million for services to help transition people experiencing unsheltered homelessness into affordable housing, and \$37 million to permanently increase the Aged, Blind, and Disabled cash grant from \$197 to \$417 per month.

HB 1643, Rep David Hackney, creates a real estate excise tax exemption for nonprofit affordable housing developers and local governments.

HB 1866, Rep Frank Chopp, creates the “Apple Health and Homes” program which will increase and streamline permanent supportive housing, pairing it with health services.

HB 1905, Rep Tana Senn, prevents discharges into homelessness among young people exiting publicly funded

systems of care such as the juvenile justice system, behavioral health inpatient care, and foster care.

HB 1724, Rep Nicole Macri, creates a taskforce in the Department of Commerce with permanent supportive housing providers and adds a seat on the Affordable Housing Advisory Board for a permanent supportive housing provider.

ESSB 5693, Operating Budget | Bipartisan vote? No | Total appropriations: \$290,000,000

SB 5651, Capital Budget | Bipartisan vote? Yes | Total appropriation: \$430,000,000

Basic Food Education and Training | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Support measures to extend job training to eligible immigrants receiving state food assistance.” **Outcome: WIN.** Immigrants who receive state-funded Food Assistance will now have equal access to job training and education opportunities that help lift families out of poverty and into living wage jobs.

ESSB 5693, Operating Budget | Bipartisan vote? No | Total appropriations: \$560,000

Food Systems

Statewide Hunger Relief | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Actively support WSDA’s full funding request for **We Feed WA** fresh local produce boxes and bulk produce; food bank capacity grants, and market access grants for Washington farms, food processors and distributors. **Outcome: WIN.**

ESSB 5693, Operating Budget | Bipartisan vote? No | Total appropriation: \$58,045,000

ESSB 5693, Operating Budget | Bipartisan vote? No | Total appropriation: \$17,625,000

Food Bank Redistributor Investments | Food Lifeline Position: “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.” **Outcome: WIN.** Funding for this purpose is envisioned within WSDA appropriations.

Use Food Well Washington (UFWW) | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Support measures to implement UFWW wasted food reduction plan recommendations, including establishing the Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management and regional food hubs.” **Outcome: WIN.** HB 1799, among many provisions related to organic materials management, creates the Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management, and updates the Washington Good Samaritan Act. It also provides funding for food waste reduction educational campaigns.

HB 1799, Rep Joe Fitzgibbon | Bipartisan vote? No | Total appropriation: \$1,800,000

Hunger and Health

Washington Produce Donation | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Actively support measures to help fund large-scale procurement of donated Washington produce for hunger relief efforts statewide.” **Outcome: WIN.** Funding to accomplish this purpose is envisioned within WSDA appropriations.

ESSB 5693, Operating Budget | Bipartisan vote? No

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Support expansion of this Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) program to provide nutrition to 7,100 more lower income adults over 60.” **Outcome: WIN.** Program benefit levels will increase from \$40 to \$80 per market season and more seniors will be served.

ESSB 5693, Operating Budget | Bipartisan vote? No | Total appropriation: \$1,524,000

Nutrition Assistance

School Meals | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Support measures to improve access and availability of school nutrition programs, including Community Eligibility expansion, funding for school nutrition infrastructure, Farm to School funding, and technology to support multilingual online school meal applications and household income data.” **Outcome: WIN.** With SHB 1878, the legislature qualifies more than 90,000 students in all grades to qualify for school meals at no student cost. HB 1833 creates a single statewide, multilingual online option to apply for school meal programs and provide family income data in schools that do not require meal applications. In addition, the legislature funded School District Nutrition Programs - \$18.223 M (federal pass through), Local food procurement for schools -\$3.645 M (federal pass through), and Pilot plant-based school meals: \$150,000.

SHB 1878, Rep Marcus Riccelli, HB 1833, Rep April Berg | Bipartisan vote? Yes | Total appropriation: \$43.685 million

Military Family Hunger | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Support measures to improve food security among veteran and military households.” **Outcome: WIN.** SB 5874 – Concerns residency of students affiliated with the military and will lower costs for education. HB 1642 expands the Washington National Guard postsecondary education grant program. HB 1601 expands programs serving students, including from military families, who are homeless or former foster care students with housing, meals, wrap around services at community and technical college students.

SB 5874, Sen T’wina Nobles; HB 1642, Rep Mari Leavitt; HB 1601, Rep Mari Leavitt | Bipartisan vote? Yes

Transitional Food Assistance | Food Lifeline Position: “Support funding for Department of Social and Health Services to provide transitional food assistance for five months to a household that ceases to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families support and is not in full-family sanction status.” **Outcome: WIN.**

SB 5785, Sen Liz Lovelett | Bipartisan vote? Yes | Total appropriation: \$290,000

Tax, Budget, and Nonprofits

Progressive Revenue | Food Lifeline Legislative Agenda Position: “Support measures to rebalance Washington’s regressive tax code while providing more revenue for community investments.” **Outcome: None.** A wealth tax was considered which would establish a one percent wealth tax on intangible financial assets of more than \$1 billion.

SB 5426, Sen Sam Hunt | Bipartisan vote? No | Bill died in committee

Total Agenda Related Appropriations: ~\$869,968,000

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Special thanks to our 2022 session intern, Lionel De La Torre Ortega, University of Washington, Political Science and Law, Societies and Justice.

Our Mission

Feeding people facing hunger today and working to end hunger for tomorrow.

Food Lifeline is a nonpartisan, nonprofit charitable hunger relief organization serving Western Washington