



Food Lifeline

STATE ADVOCACY AGENDA

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



Food Lifeline is the Feeding America partner in western Washington.

We partner with many, including:

- Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
- Balance Our Tax Code Coalition
- Children's Alliance
- Feeding Washington
- Food Policy Forum
- Guaranteed Basic Income Coalition
- Harvest Against Hunger
- Northwest Harvest
- Racial Equity Team
- Second Harvest
- Statewide Poverty Action Network
- Washington Anti-Poverty Advocates Workgroup
- Washington Coalition for Police Accountability
- Working Families Tax Credit Coalition
- Washington Food Coalition
- Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance
- Washington Military Family Hunger Coalition
- Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby

More info:

foodlifeline.org/advocacy

Before the pandemic, Food Lifeline agencies served up to 700,000 people in Western Washington annually. That increased during the pandemic to 1.1 million and has **grown to a staggering 1.6 million today.**

8.3% of households across WA were food insecure between 2020-2022, compared to 7.9% from 2019-2021. Among households with children, 17.3% are food insecure, up nearly 5 points from the prior year.

Food Lifeline is a Feeding America partner food bank distribution center serving 296 agency partners in Western Washington and a total of 402 food access locations.

Equity & Social Justice

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

Poverty

Working Families Tax Credit—SUPPORT improvements and expansion of Washington's tax credit program for households with low and moderate incomes.

Guaranteed Basic Income—SUPPORT legislation creating pilot programs for direct cash assistance to help Washington residents struggling under unprecedented income inequalities.

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

TANF—SUPPORT improvements and expansion of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Food Systems

Statewide Hunger Relief—ACTIVELY SUPPORT increasing funding for nutrition assistance and grant programs at Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Food Sovereignty—SUPPORT measures that empower communities to control their food systems, promote sustainable agricultural practices, protects food workers, and ensure equitable access to local, nutritious, and culturally relevant food.

Community Food Hubs—SUPPORT measures to direct funding to shared regional facilities for community agencies and local growers to aggregate/store/process food intended for hunger relief, local school systems and other markets.

Use Food Well Washington—SUPPORT measures to implement the UFWW Plan recommendations to meet Washington's 2030 food waste reduction goals and a more resilient food system.

Hunger, Health, and Wellbeing

Encouraging Food Donation—ACTIVELY SUPPORT policies and investments to encourage and support food donation practices in Washington, including efforts to achieve the state's goal of a 50% reduction in wasted food by the year 2030.

Nutrition Assistance

School Meals—ACTIVELY SUPPORT measures to expand access to school meals at no student cost and improve access and availability of related school nutrition programs.

Senior Meals—SUPPORT funding for meal and nutrition programs for seniors.

Military Family Hunger—SUPPORT measures to improve food security among veteran and military households.

Tax Policy

Tax Code Equity—SUPPORT measures to rebalance Washington's regressive tax code while providing more revenue for poverty reduction and community investments.

Nonprofits—MONITOR legislation impacting tax or regulatory environments for nonprofits.

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