



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Food Assistance Programs

The Washington State Department of Agriculture's (WSDA) provides service to the people of Washington by supporting the agricultural community and promoting consumer and environmental protection. The [Food Assistance Programs](#) is part of the Food Safety and Consumer Services Division which plays an active role in defending the safety, integrity, and availability of our food system.

WSDA's Food Assistance Programs assist local organizations and tribes in providing emergency food to 1 in every 6 Washingtonians. The program provides approximately \$20 million worth of state and federal food and funding to support 500 food banks, food pantries, meal programs and tribes. Our goals are to develop key partnerships and data-driven strategies to alleviate hunger and increase access to healthier food options available in the emergency food system while supporting the agricultural community.

WSDA works collaboratively with contractors, partners, and stakeholders for continuous improvement within the emergency food system. Our [advisory committee](#) is part of the [Washington Food Coalition](#) and plays a critical role in developing responsive, coordinated, and strategic solutions to the issue of hunger in our state.

The WSDA Food Assistance Programs include:

[Emergency Food Assistance Program \(EFAP\)](#) - A state funded program that helps alleviate hunger for low-income families by providing critical funding to food banks, food pantries, tribes and tribal organizations. Funding is flexible for food bank and food pantry providers; they may use their funding for the purchase of equipment or repairs, to purchase food and for operational costs. Tribes receiving funding may use it to help operate a food pantry or for issuing tribal food vouchers. Annual Budget: \$ 6.05 million

[The Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\)](#) - A federally funded (USDA) program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Washingtonians, including elderly people. TEFAP provides food and limited operational funding for distribution to non-profit organizations such as community action councils, food banks, food pantries, shelters and meal programs. Annual Budget: \$ 1.63 million; Food: \$ 11.33 million

[Commodity Supplemental Food Program \(CSFP\)](#) - A federally funded (USDA) program that provides nutritious food "packages" designated specifically for the needs of low-income elderly people at least 60 years of age. (Limited availability). Annual Federal Budget: \$ 387,195; Food: \$ 1.32 million

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Visit our Website
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Food Safety & Consumer Services Division

*Defending the safety, integrity,
and availability of our food system.*



WSDA is now on:

Publication No. 609-440
(R/2/16)