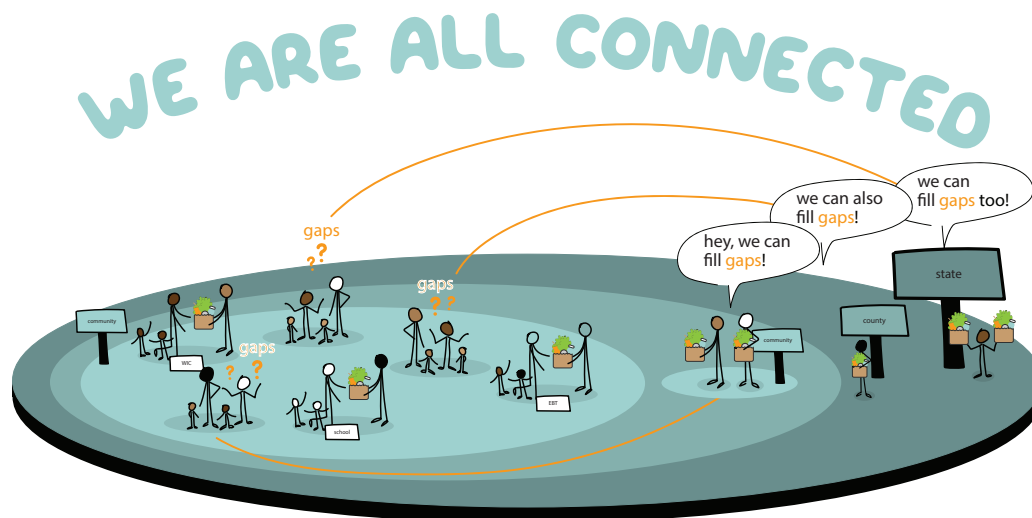


LOCAL ACTION, STATEWIDE IMPACT

A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO HUNGER DURING COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated food insecurity across our state: up to 2.4 million Washingtonians now struggle to put food on their tables. A recent national study of food insecurity during the pandemic estimates that 1 in 5 adults is now at risk of hunger and Black and Hispanic households were more than twice as likely to report food insecurity in the past 30 days.

Washington's response to this dramatic rise in hunger was swift: the Governor appointed a Food Security Coordination Team made up of state agencies that administer publicly funded food assistance programs and the food bank system: the goal is to get out in front of food insecurity with regular, weekly assessment of need, accounting of available public and private resources, and identifying gaps in services. But the state's gap analysis must and can be more effective with local action. Local hunger task forces include trusted messengers for diverse populations and can analyze and inform the state's analysis with a community-driven, equity focused lens; local hunger task forces can use this information to inform their existing work closing gaps quickly and effectively.



WASHINGTON STATE FOOD SECURITY GAP MODEL

BigIdeaZoo
Local Food

A LOCAL HUNGER TASK FORCE

- Takes action to quickly respond to requests for food, meals, and other resources from underserved communities.
- Prioritizes its response to connect those individuals to the sustainably funded, existing resources like child nutrition programs, senior meals, food banks, WIC, and SNAP.
- Coordinates with the private sector on partnerships to break through logistical barriers in order to improve access and participation.
- Informs the state's gap analysis with community and equity driven feedback on identified gaps and sharing innovative partnerships that can be shared with other local tasks forces as best practices.
- Works nimbly to take quick, collective action.

MODEL TEAM STRUCTURE

The model team structure helps ensure coordination that helps address gaps with a focus on increasing access and participation in sustainably funded, existing resources. Local task forces have the flexibility to partner with organizations that make the most sense for that community to best meet identified gaps or needs. Groups can build up over time, finding and adding new partners as new barriers or challenges emerge.

<i>A model team structure includes organizations that work in the following areas:</i>			
FISCAL, SOURCING FUNDING, VOLUNTEERS, & SUPPLIES	FOOD RESOURCES	LOGISTICS	COMMUNITY VOICE
Community foundations	Schools	Transit authority	Service or advocacy organization for a multi-racial/ethnic or ethnic group
Local United Way or similar agency	Senior meals programs	Restaurant or retail sector	Human Services (mental health, domestic violence, housing, etc.)
Local Emergency Operations Center	Food banks	Transport and warehouse/capacity	
	WIC clinic	Private industry and/or school districts with access to food preparation areas, refrigerator and freezer space	
	Lead food distributor (Northwest Harvest, Food Lifeline, or Second Harvest)		
	Faith-based organizations that participate in food and meal distribution		

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU GET STARTED

- List of identified local coordination initiatives (compiled from survey)
- State Food Security Gap Tool (when available)
- Map of food banks and meal programs, also color coded by lead food distributor agency: tinyurl.com/yc66ejw7
- Example: Lewis County Community Services Team Senior Meal Delivery: twintransit.org/lewis-county-community-services-coalition-stronger-together/

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