
A vision and path forward to cut our state's food insecurity rates in half by 2028

As an agency focused on eliminating hunger in Washington, Northwest Harvest continually asks two basic questions:

- How can we do a better job of getting food to people who are hungry?
- Why is it that people today are suffering from hunger in the first place?

The first question deals with access. The second deals with justice.

For Northwest Harvest, the answers to both are inseparable from each other.

Hunger does not manifest itself due to an equation of too many people and not enough food. There is plenty of food to feed us all. The primary reason hunger exists here at home is because we have structures that are failing us. We are failing in our ability to get nutritious food to the communities that are most in need. We are failing at supporting common-sense policy and legislation that protect our most vulnerable. And we are failing to effectively break down social barriers and discriminatory practices that perpetuate generations of lost opportunities for education, employment, health care, and housing.

If we ever wish to collectively end hunger, we must look at ending practices that continually widen opportunity gaps—while building a better food system for all, leading us to a more equitable society.

Northwest Harvest is looking to change aspects of the existing food system by addressing root causes of poverty and systemic inequities. We have just recently introduced a new set of solutions focused on helping entire communities overcome what seems to be a historically unsolvable problem—and allow all our neighbors to fulfill the dream of reaching their full potential.



Northwest Harvest, determined to see equitable access to nutritious food for all in Washington, has a bold new goal of cutting our state's hunger rates in half in the next decade. We have developed a model that can make this goal a reality.



The model goes:

- *If* people in Washington who are at risk of hunger can access nutritious food...
- *And* a broad set of actors can be mobilized to address issues that cause hunger in our state...
- *And* investments are channeled to scalable, effective hunger-fighting initiatives...
- *Then* food insecurity in Washington can be reduced by 50% in the next ten years.

The strategies to execute this model are channeled into five separate areas:

ACCESS		Through innovative networks, we ignite communities and implement strategies that end hunger
DISTRIBUTION		Ensure innovative and cost-effective solutions to equitable procurement and delivery of food
PUBLIC POLICY		Build political will to end hunger in Washington
ACCELERATING IDEAS		Design, test, and scale innovative, breakthrough programs to cut hunger in half
ADVANCING A MOVEMENT		Grow agency's brand awareness to inspire greater community action

Since hunger is felt disproportionately by our neighbors, we are placing our initial focus on communities of color and rural areas of our state.

This model and set of strategies have not been constructed to be an outline for what Northwest Harvest *will do*—rather, it states *what must be done* by all stakeholders.

We hope you begin thinking of Northwest Harvest as not just a hunger relief agency, but a statewide platform where leaders from a wide variety of sectors: social service providers; government agencies; businesses; growers, farmers, ranchers; civic organizations; media; as well as all other societal influencers **come together with a common goal of providing food today and eliminating hunger tomorrow.**

