

Right to Food

UPROOTING BARRIERS TO A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

Hunger isn't just the absence of food; it's the absence of justice.

In a time of economic instability and increasing vulnerability to our food systems, we need policies that can support people in feeding themselves, whether through producing their own food or procuring it from a vendor. **Pursuing the Right to Food means creating policies that center human dignity and remove barriers to accessing adequate food.**

The Right to Food is a basic human right that belongs to everyone in Washington and is essential for the health and protection of our farms, our families, and our food.

Policies that embody the Right to Food align with **three core elements:**

AVAILABILITY:

Food is directly sourced from the land and natural resources or obtained by a well-functioning system of market and distribution.

- Strengthen the We Feed Washington program: secure state and federal funding to provide locally grown, nutritious food, ensuring food for communities experiencing deep hunger that is less susceptible to national supply chain disruptions

ACCESSIBILITY:

Food is both physically and economically obtainable, ensuring that people do not go hungry at the expense of other basic needs.

- Expand access to fruits and vegetables with an ongoing investment of \$6 million in the Fruit & Vegetable Incentives Program
- Ensure physical accessibility by expanding access to dental therapists & funding the Immigrant Workers Health Fund
- Promote economic accessibility by establishing a statewide pilot Guaranteed Basic Income, increasing the Working Families Tax Credit, and improving access to TANF and adequacy of TANF cash assistance

ADEQUACY:

Food is safe for consumption, culturally-responsive, and nutritious at all developmental stages of life.

- Eliminate barriers to child nutrition by providing healthy school meals at no cost to all Washington students
- Implementing "Hunger-Free Campuses," a comprehensive approach to providing low-income college students with resources to access nutritious food and meals

While the US currently does not honor a national Right to Food, we need policies that ensure that everyone can access adequate food and feed themselves in a dignified way. **It's not too late for Washington state to take action.**

Contact Northwest Harvest at AdvocacyTeam@northwestharvest.org for more information.