

Washington State Partner Program FAQ

Describing the Distribution of Emergency Food Boxes in Response to the Ongoing COVID-19 Health and Economic Crisis to Food Banks, Pantries, and Meal Programs Across the State.

In a coordinated statewide effort, Washington’s three largest hunger relief organizations are working together to best meet the rapidly growing demand for emergency food in communities across the state.

Each of the three organizations – **Northwest Harvest**, **Second Harvest**, and **Food Lifeline** – as well as officials in Olympia – have been tasked with **ensuring that no one in Washington goes hungry during this crisis**. Together, we are assessing needs, cataloguing available resources, forecasting potential gaps, and advocating with the Governor’s COVID-19 Food Security Team for resources needed to best serve the food needs of all Washingtonians.

Collectively, we feel that a focused **county-by-county strategy** will be the most efficient and effective way of ensuring that emergency food boxes will get to the greatest areas of need throughout our state.

This **Frequently Asked Questions** document includes information we feel is important for our state’s food banks, pantries, and meal programs to know at this critical time in our collective and cooperative work.

Q: What relief organization is serving my community with emergency food box deliveries?

A: Each county has been matched to the most appropriate of the three hunger relief organizations.

Here is the listing of these counties and lead agencies.

| Northwest Harvest | Second Harvest | Food Lifeline |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chelan | Adams | Clallam |
| Clark | Asotin | Cowlitz |
| Douglas | Benton | Island |
| Grays Harbor | Columbia | Jefferson |
| King (<i>South</i>) | Ferry | King (<i>Central and North</i>) |
| Kittitas | Franklin | Kitsap |
| Klickitat | Garfield | Lewis |
| Okanogan | Grant | Mason |
| Pacific | Lincoln | San Juan |
| Pierce | Pend Oreille | Skagit |
| Skamania | Spokane | Snohomish |
| Wahkiakum | Stevens | Thurston |
| Yakima | Walla Walla | Whatcom |
| | Whitman | |

Q: How will food be distributed to me?

A: Some programs will receive inventory of food directly from Northwest Harvest, Second Harvest, or Food Lifeline. Others will receive their inventory from a sub-distributor in their region. Here is an overview of the delivery method for each organization.

| Northwest Harvest | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| County | Method of Distribution | Truck to |
| Chelan | Sub-distributor | Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council |
| Clark | Sub-distributor | Clark County Food Bank |
| Douglas | Sub-distributor | Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council |
| Grays Harbor | Sub-distributor | Coastal Harvest |
| King (<i>South</i>) | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Kittitas | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Klickitat | Sub-distributor | Washington Gorge Action Programs |
| Okanogan | Sub-distributor | Okanogan Community Action Council |
| Pacific | Sub-distributor | Coastal Harvest |
| Pierce | Sub-distributor | Emergency Food Network (EFN) |
| Skamania | Sub-distributor | Washington Gorge Action Programs |
| Wahkiakum | Sub-distributor | Coastal Harvest |
| Yakima | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |

| Second Harvest | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| County | Method of Distribution | Truck to |
| Adams | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Asotin | Sub-distributor | Blue Mountain Action Council |
| Benton | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Columbia | Sub-distributor | Blue Mountain Action Council |
| Ferry | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Franklin | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Garfield | Sub-distributor | Blue Mountain Action Council |
| Grant | Direct to Partner / Sub-distributor | Partner Programs |
| Lincoln | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Pend Oreille | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Spokane | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Stevens | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |
| Walla Walla | Sub-distributor | Blue Mountain Action Council |
| Whitman | Direct to Partner | Partner Programs |

| Food Lifeline | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| County | Method of Distribution | Truck to |
| Clallam | Sub-distributor | Port Angeles Food Bank |
| Cowlitz | Sub-distributor | Lower Columbia Community Action Program |
| Island | Sub-distributor | TBD |
| Jefferson | Sub-distributor | Olympic Community Action Programs |
| King <i>(Central and North)</i> | Direct to Partner | Partner deliveries or pickup at Food Lifeline |
| Kitsap | Sub-distributor | Bremerton Foodline |
| Lewis | Sub-distributor | Lewis County Food Bank Association |
| Mason | Sub-distributor | TBD |
| San Juan | Sub-distributor | Bellingham Food Bank |
| Skagit | Sub-distributor | Community Action of Skagit County |
| Snohomish | Sub-distributor | Volunteers of America Western Washington |
| Thurston | Sub-distributor | Thurston County Food Bank |
| Whatcom | Sub-distributor | Bellingham Food Bank |

Q: Will agencies be distributing food to programs outside their assigned listed counties?

A: Lead agencies will focus emergency box distribution efforts to each of their designated counties. Each lead agency, at their own discretion, will continue distributing other available food supplies to partner agencies. Distribution of food and supplies to any partners outside the listed counties will not be prioritized for the duration of this crisis.

Q: If I normally receive food from multiple agencies, will I continue to receive food from both – like Northwest Harvest AND Second Harvest or Food Lifeline AND Northwest Harvest?

A: Each lead hunger relief organization will be focused on their assigned counties for distribution of emergency food boxes. They will be your single source of all emergency food boxes throughout the coronavirus crisis.

Food banks and meal programs that are currently partnered with more than one distributor will only receive emergency food boxes from the lead organization for their county.

Plans by the three hunger relief organizations to continue provisioning partners outside of their assigned emergency food box counties with any supplies provided by WSDA or private sector procurement include:

- **Northwest Harvest** is currently focusing all their operational bandwidth on immediate emergency efforts to supply emergency food boxes and supplies to each of their 13 designated counties as well as programs served out of their Spokane Distribution Center.
- Until further notice, **Food Lifeline** will continue their online ordering system for partners who already have that access.
- **Second Harvest** will continue delivering food to all Eastern Washington agency partners through regular distribution channels and its Mobile Market program.
- **Food Lifeline** and **Second Harvest** will also maintain their regular Grocery Rescue operations.

Each of the three lead organization will contact partners in their respective designated counties to share distribution details.

Q: How will this food be delivered to my program?

A: Each lead organization is mobilizing food resources, staff, and volunteers to assemble emergency food boxes prepacked for families. These boxes will vary in size and weight – depending upon the menu version contained in that box.

Unless otherwise noted, these emergency food boxes will be delivered on pallets.

Q: Do you know what food my program will be receiving?

A: Each lead organization is actively developing a variety of menus based on current inventory and inbound product. These menus contain shelf-stable items such as rice, dried beans, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, and proteins. As food resources change, each organization will adjust the specific contents of their emergency boxes. Menus should stay largely consistent across each of the lead organizations.

Q: How do I know that the food in these boxes are safe and do not contain the coronavirus?

A: The emergency food boxes will be assembled– both at food bank distribution centers and 3rd-party warehouse locations. They will be packed safely in accordance with the most recent COVID-19 health guidelines.

Q: What if we need more food than we usually receive from you? How do I go about getting enough boxes for my program?

A: Each organization will do their very best to satisfy all needs based on food available in an equitable fashion. To request adjustments in your quantities, please see the contact information at the end of this document. You will be asked to share information about needs in your community so that we can coordinate our procurement with the Governor’s team.

Q: Will food pantries and meal programs receive perishable products during this time?

A: At this time, the emergency food box program is focused on shelf-stable, non-perishable food. Lead agencies may include produce and other perishable food supplies when available. If you have a Grocery Rescue relationship facilitated by one of the lead agencies it will continue.

Q: Will we continue to receive TEFAP food?

A: Yes. There will be no changes to how you receive TEFAP. Each of the three lead organizations will continue to process TEFAP as contracted and allocated by the WSDA.

Each TEFAP lead will continue to honor their contractual TEFAP agreements to support each county assigned by the WSDA.

Q: Will there be additional food from FEMA coming to our programs?

A: At this time, FEMA has not released or announced the release of any food stock. Each hunger relief agency will communicate to you when and if food is released by FEMA.

Q: How long do you anticipate these distribution changes remaining in place?

A: All timelines for providing you with emergency food box deliveries will be made in close coordination with the Governor’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Team.

We anticipate as long as COVID-19 is having a sizable health or economic effect on people in need, we will continue this or similar methods of emergency food distribution to best stock your shelves and provide much-needed food to all you serve.

Q: Who is my point of contact to set, confirm, or adjust my emergency food orders?

A: Please see the below list (by county) to find your program’s assigned contact person.

| County | Contact | Email |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Adams | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Asotin | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Benton | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Chelan | Mary Huff | maryh@northwestharvest.org |
| Clallam | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Clark | Mary Huff | maryh@northwestharvest.org |
| Columbia | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Cowlitz | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Douglas | Mary Huff | maryh@northwestharvest.org |
| Ferry | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Franklin | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Garfield | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Grant | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Grays Harbor | Mary Huff | maryh@northwestharvest.org |
| Island | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Jefferson | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| King <i>(Central and North)</i> | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| King <i>(South)</i> | Mary Huff | maryh@northwestharvest.org |
| Kitsap | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Kittitas | Josh Roybal | joshr@northwestharvest.org |
| Klickitat | Josh Roybal | joshr@northwestharvest.org |
| Lewis | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Lincoln | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Mason | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Okanogan | Mary Huff | maryh@northwestharvest.org |
| Pacific | Mary Huff | maryh@northwestharvest.org |
| Pend Oreille | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Pierce | Mary Huff | maryh@northwestharvest.org |
| San Juan | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Skagit | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Skamania | Josh Roybal | joshr@northwestharvest.org |
| Snohomish | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Spokane | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Stevens | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Thurston | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Wahkiakum | Mary Huff | maryh@northwestharvest.org |
| Walla Walla | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Whatcom | Josh Martinez | joshm@foodlifeline.org |
| Whitman | Emily Kanally | emily.kanally@2-harvest.org |
| Yakima | Josh Roybal | joshr@northwestharvest.org |

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