** FAAC meeting**

 July 11, 2023

Michelle called the meeting to order.

The goal of this committee is to be a direct line of communication to WSDA. Make your voice heard.

**l. Approval of minutes** – Will have the minutes from the April meeting to approve at our next meeting.

**ll. WSDA Report** – Kim Eads

**WSDA Food Assistance (January – June 2023 Highlights)**

**Note: Does not include all of the funding.**

1. **EFAP – Early Action Bill Increased SFY 2023 Funding (April/May 2023)**
* Initial Plan: $10 Million Food Assistance
* $5 Million **EFAP Pass-through**
* $5 Million **FA Food Purchase**
* **Revised** Plan: $11.2 Million Food Assistance *(not granted the exemption from receipt of goods by June 30, 2023)*
* $8.1 Million EFAP Pass-through
	+ $5 Million Early Action
	+ $1.9 Million Early Action (shifted from FA Food Purchase)
	+ $1.2 Million Other Funding
* $3.1 Million (Early Action) FA Food Purchase for Reserve Warehouse
1. **TEFAP Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Funding & Food (first time receiving CCC on top of TEFAP entitlement)**
* Phase 1 (March – June 2023)
* $257,539 Funding (100% pass-through to TEFAP Lead Agencies)
* 103 Truckloads
* **$6,478,928** Food Value
1. **TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grants -**
	* Round 1 July 2022 – June 2024 (2 year grant)
* 9 Lead Agencies (selected based on high-risk factors, remote, & rural)
* $827,000 Funding (pass-through)
	+ Round 2 July 2023 – June 2025 (new agreements not issued yet)
* 13 Lead Agencies (selected based on high-risk factors, remote, & rural)
* $1.4 Million (pass-through)
1. **TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Grants – from Farm Bill**
	* Year 4 (April – October 2023)
* 4 Participating Organizations
* $78,324.88 (pass-through)
* Could be the last year unless reauthorized in the Farm Bill
1. **USDA Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) Extension to June 30, 2025 & New LFPA Plus**
* LFPA (July 2022 – June 30, 2025) extended grant period
* $2.7 Million Pass-through
	+ Allows for operational expenses (revised from 15% to 45%)
	+ Waiting to get finalized.
* LFPA **Plus** (July 2023 – June 30, 2025); Pending final approval from USDA
* $4.9 Million Pass-through
	+ Does NOT allow for operational expenses with the exception of storage and transportation cost included in the food purchase price.
	+ Only minimally processed foods are allowed.
	+ Minimally processed foods.
1. **WSDA Food Assistance Resiliency Grants**
* SFY 2023
* $16 Million
* 107 Grants
* Wide range of support.
* SFY 2024
* $5.2 Million (Estimate) Significant decrease
* Applications are open NOW through July 31, 2023
	+ Looking for judges!
	+ <https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access/hunger-relief-resources/food-assistance-grants/resiliency-grants>

**WSDA Directors Office**

1. **Early Action Bill (May/June 2023) $20M**
* Director’s Designated Awards
* $10 Million for Emergency Food Purchases
	+ $6.5 Million Northwest Harvest
	+ $3.5 Million Food Lifeline
1. **We Feed WA $35 Million (July 2023 – June 30, 2025) – Jessica Hernandez, Program Lead**
* Third iteration
* NEW PROCESS, different rules
* Grant Applications are **due** July 17, 2023 8:00 AM
* 2-year grants (Vendor & Hunger Relief Organizations; **focus on direct services & WA grown/produced)**
* Award notice by August 31, 2023 or sooner
* Eligibility:
	+ Up-to-date registration with the Secretary of State of Washington and the Washington State Department of Revenue
	+ Businesses/Organizations with one (1) or more years of experience procuring and/or distributing emergency food in Washington State within the past three (3) years
	+ Businesses/Organizations that have facilitated a minimum of twelve (12) emergency food distributions between July 2022 to June 2023
	+ Businesses/Organizations that have distributed emergency food to a minimum of 1,000 households between July 2022 to June 2023
* <https://agr.wa.gov/about-wsda/we-feed-wa/we-feed-wa-grant>
* Questions?
	+ Check the FAQ page check there first.
	+ Reach out to Jessica Hernandez (email is best)
		- **Jessica.A.Hernandez@agr.wa.gov**
	+ 3 Grant Tiers
		- Over $500,000 - $1 million (more competitive)
		- $250,001 - $500,000
		- $100,000 - $250,000
	+ No technical assistance component now but maybe later.
	+ Fresh Box grant later.

*Questions on information shared above on the first two quarters?*

*NWH & FLL - What did they do with their director allocated funds? WSDA doesn’t have info on how these funds were used.*

**Food Assistance (July – December Highlights) – Kim Eads**

* EFAP Biennial Agreements and Updates
* EFAP and EFAP-Tribal Lead Agency Agreements Issued
* Agreements include one for **state funding** and one for **Federal funding** – sign both agreements.
* Total combined for State and Federal = **$18.3+ Million**
* Sub Agency Agreement Templates (estimated release July 21)
* Retro-Active to July 1, 2023
* TEFAP
* USDA FFY 2023 Reallocated an additional Funding – Approx. $ 1 Million (Mid-July)
* FFY 2024 **NEW** Agreements & Procedures Manual
	+ July/Aug discussions with TEFAP Lead Agencies
	+ Retains Client Eligibility at 400% of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, permanently raised
	+ **Removes Client service area restrictions to match EFAP, in line with EFAP**
	+ Anticipate additional TEFAP GAP Funding in Sept/Oct
* TEFAP CCC (Credit Corporation Funding)
* In Phase 2 (July – December 2023:
	+ $ 235,539 Admin Funding
	+ 94 Truckloads
	+ Food value $5,112,711
* ***New*** USDA Announcement another increase to TEFAP CCC Increase & Extension (FFY 2024+)
	+ $19.3 Million (Est. Value Food & Funding for State of WA)
	+ Everyone is seeing increased need and lack of food
* Farm to Food Pantry
* ***Biennial*** Applications are open on the **Harvest Against Hunger** Website
	+ Applications close on **July 28, 2023**
	+ Estimated Award Value ranges from $7,500 - $25,000 (Annual)
	+ Approx. $500,000 total pass-through each year
	+ Different than Resiliency Grants

*Questions:*

* David Bobanick posted link for Farm to Food Pantry - ***https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZKGlAsxY9h1RwE02EcBB\_-4ONlZ8jNcC/view***
* Bob Mark – What can the $1 million coming in mid-July be used for? Staffing operations, fuel & storage.
* Income guideline sheets for TEFAP on WSDA website. Translations will be coming.
* Sue Potter, Nourish, had an idea shared by Michelle, could a QR code be developed for translated income guidelines?
* New TEFAP contracts in FY 23 – have to sign new contracts, big changes, new policies. Ongoing to effort to increase access to everyone.
* Claire asked will there be more funding coming out. Kim commented that TEFAP CCC – USDA.

*Aaron responded to Trish’s earlier question about HB 1784 funding: Food Lifeline used funds to pursue a phased approach, spending a portion of the funds through June 30 to increase the volume of foods we offered, and because of the increased level of need will remain elevated for some time, as a second strategy we sought reimbursement for foods we procured and distributed already this year in order to apply those funds to have a larger food procurement fund in FY 2023, enabling us to sustain higher volumes for a longer period of time.*

*Our procurement strategy is to use some of these funds to purchase products that the agencies want, but we usually can’t afford. The rest of the procurement funds will be to purchase highly desired items to fill up our warehouse. Examples: Canned proteins, Halal/Protein Frozen (Chicken, Beef, Halal), Fish, Canned Vegetables, Shelf Stable fruit.*

**lll. Brief report out on resources**

WFC – Connect to the collection. Trish reminded folks about the newsletters the coalition reported. Food Banks are offering newsletters and calls. WSDA is hosting calls for lead agencies.

Join the WFC – send out information. Training topics share with Trish or WSDA. Office hours starting in the new year.

* 1. Nutrition Resources – Dana Cordy, contractor, working with programs across the state. Nutrition Policies and SWAP
* SWAP – Supporting Wellness in Pantries – Encourage customers to choose foods that are helpful
* AHA – printed materials for pantries and at the conference.
* SNAP Ed funding – bring together SNAP ed nutritionists and dieticians across the state to better connect pantries and SNAP ed folks.
	1. **Harvest Against Hunger - David Bobanick**
* Starting a **Washington State Gleaning Network** – next steps in the next couple of months.
* **Harvest VISTA Program** – place a Vista resource with a program, 3-year commitment, enhance your capacity or start a new program model in your community. Harvest VISTA: https://www.harvestagainsthunger.org/harvest-vista-host-site/
* **Farm to Community** –Three different but related programs Farm to Food Pantry. WA State in every county. Supporting smaller scale growers. https://www.harvestagainsthunger.org/farm-to-community/
* **King County Farmer Share**
* **Growing for Good**
* **Capacity grants:** <https://www.harvestagainsthunger.org/refrigerated-capacity-grants/> part of WSDA’s Resiliency Program, grants under $5,000

Michelle asked the coalition to send out the PowerPoint to everyone ASAP.

**lV. TEFAP Foods: James Scovel**

James Scovel shared a presentation. Tons of food coming in. Slides will be attached to the minutes.

Garbanzo beans and lots of Fresh fruit coming! Please see slides for each month to see what TEFAP food is coming in.

**Food Lifeline – Ryan Scott**

Final year of their Strategic Plan, new partners and doubling of food given out. They are hearing from agencies – spikes in customers and the need for more food.

Rebuild inventory to meet increased need and volume, provide culturally relevant food. As they move forward, they will rebuild donated food streams and relationships as well as to provide diversified products, including working with growers.

**2nd Harvest- Eric Williams**

Last September recognized shortage of food in system. Send Letter last September. In December and January, they had to pause deliveries. The operating model has changed to using hubs, RDO’s. More staff have been directed to assist in procuring food. Distribute 3 million pounds a month. Dry goods are less available – more cold storage.

**V. Farm Bill – Claire Lane**

*Claire.Lane2@gmail.com or 206-446-0966*

Preview, on July 19th the WFC is hosting a webinar on the Farm Bill. Claire will share “What is in the Farm Bill, what is at stake and why WA State is so important.” Why does it matter? TEFAP, SNAP, all the things we have been talking about today. She will share the nuts and bolts – tips and tricks on how to be a good advocate. She doesn’t think the Farm Bill will be complete by the end of September.

**Vl. Future Meetings:**

* WFC Board meeting – July 26th in-person or over ZOOM
* WFC Conference – September 27-29th
* FAAC meeting will meet again in October