



Food for Thought

Washington Food Coalition newsletter / Fall 2021

No one in Washington State should go hungry

WaFoodCoalition.org

Executive Director's Greeting

Dear WFC members and Friends,

I know many of you are busy with fall activities, fundraisers, school openings and planning for the holidays. I hope you are also making plans to join us for the WFC's Annual Conference. The Board of the WFC has decided to host the conference completely virtual this year.

We are disappointed that once again we will not be able to see each other in person but for everyone's safety we have decided it is best to proceed virtually over ZOOM this year. But do not fear, we have created a robust learning schedule, great keynotes, a book club, and a wonderful virtual world to join.

We will be sending out more instructions and information on how to join our virtual world soon. As I have mentioned in other correspondence, we have created a fun and interactive virtual platform that will take you right into the Wenatchee Convention Center, where you can listen to our keynote, attend sessions (over ZOOM) and interact with exhibitors.

Join us and participate in our first Book Club! We will be reading the book, *Reinventing Food Banks and Pantries - New Tools to End Hunger* written by Katie S. Martin. Join us in this session where we will have a facilitate discussion on the book. You will have an opportunity to ask the author Katie Miller questions the next day when she will be joining us on Friday morning. Click on the link to order your copy and get a 25% discount by using code: WFC25 <https://islandpress.org/books/reinventing-food-banks-and-pantries>

More information on registration and conference activities, please visit our web site: <https://wfc.memberclicks.net/2021ConferenceRegistrationForm> Scholarships are available.

We look forward to seeing you over ZOOM. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at trish@wafoodcoalition.org. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in keeping everyone safe.



Stay safe,

Trish Twomey

Trish Twomey
trish@wafoodcoalition.org
206-729-0501



It has been a busy summer for hunger relief. We hope you take time to rest, play, and nourish yourselves. Our team has been conducting contractor reviews and it has been a true honor to come see some of you and your establishments; we appreciate everyone's efforts to make these meetings both meaningful and safe.

We are thankful for the State Legislature's new investment of \$23 Million in WSDA Food Assistance programs for the 21-23 biennium. This exciting investment will support food insecure people across our State and help address current and emerging food system needs. Funds will reach hunger relief networks through the EFAP and Farm to Food Pantry programs, and the soon-to-be-announced Flexible Funding Grants program that will be rolling out in Fall 2021.

To advise WSDA in this effort, we have formed the Flexible Funding Grant Subcommittee (FFGS) which includes representation from across our State in multiple sectors and community groups. The FFGS has met weekly to incorporate process improvement feedback from our network (collected via survey and ad hoc committee) and create a new and improved grant program.

In the upcoming weeks, you will see much more information about this grant program, including a process overview and an application to follow soon after that. You can expect clear communication, virtual education sessions, and transparency around timeline and expectations. The purpose of the grant is to inspire innovation, support strategic improvements, and help address critical gaps in our network. Below is a sneak peek at the grant categories and example projects.

Grant types (projects should fall into one or more of these categories):

Food Distribution Efficiencies

- Staffing (including paying current staff a living wage), training
- Capacity improvements - equipment & construction

Targeted Community Needs

- Support for historically underrepresented community groups, including: BIPOC, Veterans, people experiencing homelessness, rural regions
- for underrepresented community programs and needs: meal programs; fresh, ready-to-eat, and culturally-relevant foods

Pilot Projects, Innovations, & Food System Improvements

- Focus on local purchasing, prioritizing Washington-grown product
- Regional partnerships or projects
- New or expanded projects to meet current and emerging needs, such as home delivery and food processing

Grant Objectives (the most successful applicants will meaningfully address one or more of the following objectives):

- Equity and inclusivity
- Strategy
- Resiliency and sustainability
- Removing barriers and increased access to healthy, culturally relevant foods
- Supporting local agriculture and business

In the weeks leading up to the launch of this program (Fall 2021), we highly recommend that you consider the needs of your agency and staff. Interested parties should acquire a DUNS number and SAM registration now if you have not done so already, as these will be required for this funding and there is often a waiting period for new or expired applicants. Hunger relief agencies that are not yet contracted with WSDA will also be eligible to participate in this grant program. Outreach will be coordinated by FFGS and we also invite you to start sharing this information with hunger relief organizations in your community who may benefit, particularly BIPOC and other historically underrepresented groups.

Looking forward to sharing more soon,,

Kim Eads

WSDA Food Assistance Program Manager

WFC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday, Sept 30th - Friday, October 1st, 2021

Hindsight is 2020 - The Future is Filled with Possibilities!



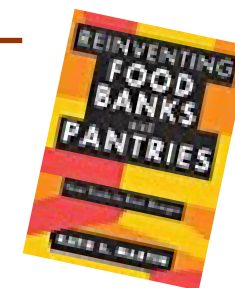
More details on the conference...

We are excited to see all of you on Zoom at the end of the month. We will soon be sending out a schedule of our sessions. Our plan is to offer 15 sessions, virtually over two days, on subjects that we feel will be helpful at this time. Please see sessions offered below.

This year we have planned a new addition to the conference, a Book Club! Join us!

BOOK CLUB

Join us and participate in our first Book Club! We will be reading the book, *Reinventing Food Banks and Pantries - New Tools to End Hunger* written by Katie S. Martin. Join us in this session where we will have a facilitate discussion on the book. You will have an opportunity to ask the author Katie Miller questions the next day when she will be joining us virtually. Click on the link to order your copy and get a 25% discount by using code: WFC25
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SESSIONS

We offer our sessions on Thursday, September 30th and Friday, October 1st.

1. Best Practices During COVID
2. Keynote Follow up - Luis Guardia
3. WSDA session
4. Book Club
5. Equitable Decision Making
6. Food Safety - New Food Code Rules
7. Emergency Preparedness - How did you do during COVID? What did you learn?
8. Succession Planning
9. Serving Diverse Populations - Where to get food?
10. Everything you Wanted to Know about Food Banking but were Afraid to Ask
11. Military Family Hunger
12. Workplace Safety
13. Building a Comprehensive Marketing Strategy & Online Presence for Your Nonprofit Organization
14. Social Media Tools & How to Use Them
15. Developing a Nutrition Policy for the WFC

Our Mission: The Washington Food Coalition actively educates and networks with organizations that strive to alleviate hunger throughout Washington

Our Vision: The Washington Food Coalition is the unified voice for a strong emergency food system

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Sequim Food Bank

WFC Vice Chair

Robert Coit
Thurston County Food Bank

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Community Services of Moses Lake

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Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank

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Eloise Cooking Pot

Michelle Douglas

Emergency Food Network (EFN)

Kellie McNelly

ROOF Community Services

Robert Coit

Thurston County Food Bank

Alan Hamilton

Clark County Food Bank

Liz Cerveney

North County Community Food Bank

Andra Smith

Sequim Food Bank

Chris Benson

Central Kitsap Helpline

At-Large Members

Kris Van Gasken

Des Moines Area Food Bank

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



We are thrilled to have Luis Guardia, President of the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), as our keynote this year. Mr. Guardia will join us virtually and will take part in an interview type presentation, think Oprah, where he will answer questions on food insecurity and the pandemic, how the country is recovering and what lessons we learned. You will also have an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Our virtual option will take you right into the Wenatchee Conference Center, virtually of course, where you can interact with other conference attendees, our keynote speakers, plus participate in sessions, and interact with our exhibitors. Our partners at Zeacon will make your virtual experience fun and productive!

www.wafoodcoalition.org

Cost is \$99 ~ please register today!

We look forward to seeing you!



Eat Local First: WA Food & Farm Finder!

Lisa Vaughn, WSU Clallam County Extension

The Washington Food & Farm Finder is an online tool that helps people easily connect with local farms and food in Washington State. Farmers, producers, fishers and local food businesses, in addition to local organizations working to strengthen the local food system, are encouraged to create a listing at eatlocalfirst.org/register. Food banks, meal programs, community gardens and local organizations and agencies can create a listing under the "Local Resource" heading. Farmers, Farmers Markets, Grocers and others can indicate if they accept FMNP, Fresh Bucks, SNAP Market Match and/or SNAP/EBT. Consumers can then easily search the listings with the "Food Access & Nutrition Incentives" filter selected to find farmers, farmers markets, grocers and others who accept these forms of payment. With this kind of easy-to-use tool, the WA Food & Farm Finder is making it easier for consumers seeking to use these types of food assistance programs to purchase locally grown, produced and harvested food and also find local resources that can assist them in meeting their food needs.

It is easier than ever to connect with and support local farms and food businesses.

<https://eatlocalfirst.org/wa-food-farm-finder/>