



Washington Food Coalition

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WSDA FAP Advisory Committee **Executive Summary on EFAP Allocation Process**

History

The EFAP allocation formula has gone through many reiterations since the program began in the 1987-89 biennium. In 1990 an advisory group was formed to directly advise EFAP, consisting of stakeholders in the program. This committee provided insight to the process and gradually became more involved in formulating the allocation.

This advisory committee did research and recommended an allocation in 2011 based on the 5-yr average for the smaller 9 counties with no 3-yr averages and the 3-yr averages for the remaining counties. The committee also recommended that the base per county be raised from \$6000 to \$10,000 per year for the biennium. The larger base resulted in smaller reductions to less populated counties where the new formula resulted in decreases.

The advisory committee, which in 2011-13 became a committee of the Washington Food Coalition (WFC) Board of Directors and no longer directly managed by WSDA, did not discuss the formula for the 2013-15 biennium. The committee, along with FAP staff, was very busy focusing on various changes within the food assistance programs, most specifically combining the 3 programs contracts into one contract. When WSDA was finalizing the application packet, which included the allocation table, it realized the allocation formula issue was never by the advisory committee and made the decision to keep the formula the same with the exception of using the 5-yr ACS averages for all counties instead of the combination of 3-yr and 5-yr averages. This kept the "playing field" more even and resulted in fewer and less severe reductions to the smaller and medium sized counties.

The WFC FAP Advisory Committee decided in September 2013 to have the re-evaluation of the allocation formula be something that was done regularly every 2 years in the non-contract years.

Current Progress

This committee recommends their decisions to the WFC Board of Directors, and if approved then WFC will pass on the recommendation officially to WSDA Food Assistance Programs. At that point, it is the prerogative of WSDA staff to follow the recommendations or utilize another method. The WFC FAP Advisory Committee is currently considering three different options for allocating EFAP funds in 2015-2017. These are the 3 options:

- **Option 1 - Current funding allocation**
 - Each county receives a base of \$10,000 per year
 - The remaining available funding is computed on the share of people living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level in each county using 5 year ACS.
- **Option 2 – Use a combination of the ACS estimates with the same base of \$10,000.**
 - Use the 3 and 5 year ACS estimates.
 - Use the 1, 3 and 5 year ACS estimates
- **Option 3 - Adjust and target the base to counties using other factors such as distressed or rural areas.**