



**Washington Food Coalition**

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## **WSDA FAP Advisory Committee** **Executive Summary on Value of Donated Food**

### **History**

The value of food has received just minimal attention over the last 20 years and has had just 3 different values. In 1990 an advisory group was formed to directly advise EFAP, consisting of stakeholders in the program. This committee provided insight to the process of establishing the value

A statewide value was not applied until the mid 1990's, \$1.25/pound.

In the 1999-01 biennium, the value was increased to \$1.50, again, following Feeding America's approved value at the time.

The advisory group addressed the food value at least twice in the several years that followed and both times the decision was made to leave the value at \$1.50 though Feeding America had changed their value slightly.

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, recommended at the April 2013 FAP Advisory Committee to adopt the Feeding America value of \$1.66 for the 2013-2015 and during that biennium develop a process for arriving at the food value. One suggestion was that the group use the \$1.66 value as a base starting place and then prior to every new biennium, use the percentage of change in the average price of food listed in the consumer price index to add or subtract from the previous biennium's value.

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

### **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.

In February 2014, the WFC FAP Advisory Committee recommended the following method for this figure:

Establish a value at the beginning of the biennium that matches the Feeding America rate in January of the year being calculated and adjust based on the current consumer price index (CPI). Contractors may develop their own method of determining the value of food donations under their contract.

