

SNAP-Ed Forum:

**Food security issues on
the ground across
Washington**

Claire Lane, Anti-Hunger
& Nutrition Coalition

Christina Wong,
Northwest Harvest



Food Banks During COVID

- Dramatic increased need: on average:
 - WSDA: on average, statewide 50% increase over previous year
 - Nationally: 1 in 5 people now rely on emergency food
- Changes in service model
 - Pre-packed boxes, shelf-stable food
 - CFAP boxes
 - New community-based partners



Food Banks: What's ahead



- Return to regular operations
- Loss of human resources
- Winter weather services: indoor vs. costs for outdoor equipment
- Potential food supply disruptions without additional federal or state funds

Schools feeding kids during COVID




- Waiver extensions allow all schools to use Summer Meals to feed all kids (age 0-18) free meals through the school year.
- Yet, participation is WAY down...
- Staff layoffs + more limited meal times + less bus delivery + winter weather = less access for families.

Helping schools feed kids

- Partner with schools to identify access & meal quality issues – think outside the (internet survey) box!
- Campaign: families complete f/rp school meal applications!
- F/RP eligibility =





SNAP & P-EBT increase purchasing options

- Emergency allotments for ~60% of SNAP households has increased their purchasing power
- P-EBT acts like SNAP and just under 400,000 kids received ~\$147 million in P-EBT benefits this summer
- New USDA SNAP fruit/veg match

What to expect in legislative session:

Package of programs & funding that feed hungry people and help local farmers:

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- Expand SNAP fruit/veg match program
 - Fund Farm to School grants
 - Expand Farm to Food Pantry
 - Create WA-grown food boxes for schoolkids
 - Expand Emergency Food Assistance Program
 - Create flexible grants for food banks

