

Food Policy

This request retains the Food Policy Forum — which is co-administered by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) — and supports implementation of strategies in their *Early Implementation Action Report (2020)* to bolster our food system and farming communities in response to COVID-19. This includes coordinating new opportunities for all communities to enjoy equitable access to Washington-grown foods.

Funding requested: \$600,000

Why this request can't wait

- ▶ The SCC and WSDA need funding to fulfill their statutory role to conduct Food Policy Forum meetings and engage Forum members in developing and submitting semiannual recommendations to the Legislature and Governor's Office that advance food system goals.
- ▶ This request enables the Forum to turn urgent recommendations to improve our food system into action, including recommendations the Forum submitted to the Governor's Office for addressing impacts from the pandemic.
- ▶ Actions by the Forum will benefit all Washingtonians. Actions funded by this request include:
 - Coordinating improved food allocation and distribution systems from local farms to food banks and food pantries serving communities of color and economically disadvantaged individuals.
 - Working with food banks to improve food storage and processing techniques so more fresh and processed Washington-grown products can be utilized.
 - Improving the provision of meals for students, whether they are in school or learning from home due to COVID-19 closures, through improved coordination between cafeterias, farmers, food processors, and food distribution companies.

What benefits can Washington expect from this investment?

Economic security



The Forum explores the social safety net for disadvantaged Washingtonians, including recommendations for nutrition and food assistance programs.

Food system resilience



The Forum will coordinate with stakeholders to explore improving our food system's resiliency to disasters, such as earthquakes, wildfires, or a pandemic.

Farmland viability



The Forum will work to implement recommendations that preserve our farmland and assist farming operations that are struggling due to impacts from COVID-19.

What type of activities do conservation districts conduct that support recommendations from Washington’s Food Policy Forum?



Kitsap Conservation District’s GRACE Garden Project features a community garden with on-site workshops (including the container workshop pictured above) and demonstrations. It provides restorative justice opportunities for a community service work crew and provides fresh produce to local food banks.



Snohomish Conservation District has expanded their work to increase community access to locally sourced, nutritious food. This includes providing resources for apartment complexes and nonprofits to start community gardens in food desert regions.



Palouse Root Seller

During the COVID-19 crisis Palouse CD is still striving to support our farmers and community as best we can. The “Palouse Root Seller” is a virtual farmers market to help mitigate the impact growers throughout the Palouse might be feeling from restaurant and farmers market closures and put consumers in direct contact with the producers. No middle man, directly from the farm to your table.

If you are a local farm who would like to be added, please contact Garrett LaCivita at: GarrettL@PalouseCD.org



Produce



Eggs & Dairy



Meat



Other Products

Several conservation districts, including Palouse and Clark, launched virtual “food hubs” in response to COVID-19 to connect communities with safe opportunities to buy direct from local farmers.



Browse by Product

Bakery	Eggs & Dairy	Flowers
Meat & Seafood	Pantry	Plants / Nursery

Watch: [This story from Harvest Pierce County \(a program of Pierce Conservation District\) tells the story of one community member who’s working to empower low-income and Indigenous communities through sustainable and local agriculture. \(3:07\)](#)

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