Executive Director’s Greeting

Happy almost Summer!

After three years and on hold during the Pandemic, the WFC board of directors has finished their board transition work and has asked for nominees for our odd numbered districts. The coalition thanks those of you who stepped up as nominees for District Representative positions. By the time you read this newsletter, you will have received your ballot for voting. Please vote and return it ASAP. We will also be sending you a ballot for three At-Large Board positions. Our new board will be in place by this July.

I’d like to personally thank our outgoing board members Ken Trainor, Sunrise Outreach Service in Yakima; Peny Archer, Community Services of Moses Lake; Kellie McNelly, ROOF in Rochester and Kris Van Gasken, Des Moines Area Food Bank. Each of them contributed so much to the coalition; serving as Chair of the board, to Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, Silent Auction coordinator; district representatives, members of the Food Assistance Advisory Committee and more. Thank you all!

June is a significant month with the end of the EFAP biennium, spending down your EFAP funds and second round of your Resiliency Grants, plus the release of the 3rd Round of Resiliency Grants, as well as the continuation of LFPA Plus and TEFAP Reach and Resiliency programs.

Also, happening this month, the coalition is hosting an insurance training on June 22nd at noon. Sarah McDonnell, Director of the Non-Profit Insurance Program (NPIP), will be leading the session. She’ll cover a variety of topics including terms, D & O insurance, general liability and answer any questions you have about insurance. See Zoom invite in weekly newsletter. Have a wonderful summer! Hope to see you all in September for our annual conference, September 27-29th in Yakima.

Sincerely,

Trish Twomey
trish@wafoodcoalition.org
206-729-0501
Greetings from WSDA Food Assistance (FA)!

Summer has arrived quickly this year. We are aware of the many project’s organizations are either wrapping up or looking forward to starting and are excited to support the work happening across the state. Below is an update on some of FA’s top priorities in the coming months and opportunities to be aware of.

As we write this, WSDA Food Assistance is diving into the State Fiscal Year Closeout Process and ensuring that all funds have been utilized and accounted for. Whether you are a long-time partner in one of our Core Programs, or a new partner who received a Resiliency Grant this year – we appreciate your attention to detail as we wrap up the year and enter a new biennium! During this time, you may receive communications from WSDA or your Lead Agency requesting final invoices, information summarizing match and client data for the year, and Annual Equipment Inventory Reports as applicable. Thank you in advance for your timely response to these requests for information!

Since our last article, we have been happy to announce that the State’s Budget for the new biennium has been finalized. We are grateful to the State Legislature for their continued support and funding of various programs at WSDA including enhanced EFAP funds and grant opportunities. Thank you to everyone who helped advocate for these asks! Internally, the staff at Food Assistance have also loved hearing the success stories from hunger relief organizations across the state and appreciate continued communication about the needs and goals still remaining.

As a result of the successes during this legislative session mentioned above, FA is excited to offer another round of Resiliency Grants this year. The applications will be available this month, June 2023 and the application window will remain open for 45 days. You can monitor the WSDA Food Assistance Resiliency Grants webpage for updates and more information about the grant’s funding priorities. There will also be Small Equipment Grants for items costing less than $4,999.99 through Harvest Against Hunger.

During session, FA was awarded funding which has allowed us to make another immediate round of food purchases for our Reserve Warehouse operated in partnership with VOA of Western Washington. The food purchased is going to be distributed across Washington State via TEFAP Lead Agencies in the months of June, July, and August. If your organization wishes to receive those foods, please contact your County’s TEFAP Lead Agency to find out if there’s a way to include you in that distribution.

Our final collaboration priority in the next few months is continuing to develop two temporary programs administered through USDA – LFPA Plus and TEFAP Reach and Resiliency. The current LFPA program is being extended and integrated with LFPA Plus, and allows hunger relief organizations to procure food locally, prioritizing purchases to support underserved and socially disadvantaged producers and communities. Through TEFAP Reach and Resiliency, USDA awarded WSDA with funds to continue and enhance efforts to improve the accessibility of TEFAP in targeted areas of the state.

While these next few months will be busy – we are excited to head into the new biennium with so many opportunities to address hunger relief needs across the State of Washington. Thank you for your continued dedication to this work.

In community,
Kim Eads & WSDA Food Assistance Staff

“Get Certified” going online only

For the past year, WFC has offered the Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) “Get Certified” program with individual personal attention and one on one assistance. We wanted to make this easy for you, especially when it came to distributing vouchers to receive the training and exam for free. As of July 1, you will be able to access the CFPM training through the on-line platform only.

There are many options to access the information, such as:

- training and exam bundle, $76
- training only, $52
- exam only, $24 (after you purchase the exam you will need to pay to have the exam proctored)

On-line proctoring is $46, and in-person proctoring at a State Food Safety location is $50. You can make a purchase with a credit card.

It is not too late to get a voucher to pay for your training and exam. Send an email to bonnie@wafdo.coop.org with your first and last name plus organization, and she can send you a voucher. After July 1, this option will no longer be available.

More information will be posted on the WFC website after July 1, 2023

Questions? Contact Bonnie Baker, 206-280-0383, Bonnie@wafdo.coop.org

Health Centered Food Banking - UPDATE!

Over the past year, the WFC has had the opportunity to help a number of food programs across the state to promote healthy food access through the Health Centered Food Banking project. With support from the WSDA, nine food programs have adopted new nutrition policies, and many more are in the process. Ten programs have implemented the Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP) stoplight nutrition system following the nationally recognized Healthy Eating Research Nutrition Guidelines for the Charitable Food System to help shoppers identify and select nutritious foods. Food programs involved in the Health Centered Food Banking project, many of which are in rural areas and serving BIPOC communities, have also participated in monthly peer support sessions. Working alongside a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and dietician interns they have had virtual working sessions to learn about better food banking practices that create more inclusive and health supportive pantries, and accessed other resources through our partnership with the American Heart Association and SNAP Ed. Food programs have benefited by receiving customized and translated nutrition education materials for their clients. Some programs have utilized these resources to purchase produce baskets to showcase fruits and vegetables while others developed client surveys ensuring community voices were at the center of their nutrition policies.

“The new tools we have learned and are still learning are helping our volunteer staff to fill bags with better choices of foods for our clients. These practices are also being put into their personal lives which is fantastic for their own health benefits.” - Jody Stolz, Executive Director Tenino Community Service Center

“This work has helped give our program the nudge it needed to solidify our nutrition policy. We have been doing a lot of work to focus on nutritional and cultural important foods, but now we are going to be able to show a piece of work that outlines exactly what we are doing and our goals moving forward.” - Rachel Bishop, Food Programs Manager, Upper Valley Mend

As our first year of this project comes to a close this month, our work will not be ending! The WFC has secured additional funding to continue to offer health centered food banking support and resources through September, 2023 and hopefully beyond. If your program is interested in working with us, or if you want to talk about ways you can promote access to healthier and more culturally appropriate foods, please reach out to Dana@wafdo.coop.org. In the meantime, we invite you to read about two programs that we’ve been working with by clicking on the links below. And finally - if you filled out our survey about pantry signage in March, keep an eye out for an email with details about when you can expect to receive your delivery!
Washington Food Coalition Annual Conference, September 27th-29th in Yakima, WA.
Our conference theme is Navigating Your Way.
Registration is open.
https://whova.com/portal/registration/wfcac_202309/

We are excited to be using Whova again. Cost $150- Earlybird rate for members.

We will offer our time-honored traditions of Tours, Keynote, Welcome Reception, Book Club, Fresh Results Awards, Movie and so much more!!

Keynote
Our keynote will be Pamela Oakes, owner of The Profitable Nonprofit. Pamela is a consultant, speaker, business mentor, trainer, and coach. She has inspiring keynote planned for us entitled “Taking the World by Storm!”

Join the Book Club –
We’ll be reading Poverty, By America, Matthew Desmond. #1 New York Times Bestseller • The Pulitzer Prize–winning author of Evicted reimagines the debate on poverty, making a “provocative and compelling” (NPR) argument about why it persists in America: because the rest of us benefit from it. Stephanie Haag will facilitate the discussion at the Book Club session at the conference.
Get reading! Books available on Amazon - $20 - $23

Hotels –
We also have our hotel room blocks booked so you may start making your reservations:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<td>Red Lion Yakima</td>
<td>607 E. Yakima Ave, Yakima, WA 98901</td>
<td>To make your reservation call the hotel directly at 509-248-5900</td>
<td>$98.00</td>
<td>$98.00 Double Queen Bed</td>
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<td>802 E Yakima Ave, Yakima, WA 98901</td>
<td>To make your reservation call the hotel directly at 509-494-7000 or email Annelise Fuerst, Front Desk Manager at <a href="mailto:fd.mngr@downtownholidayinn.com">fd.mngr@downtownholidayinn.com</a></td>
<td>$130.00 Double Queen Bed</td>
<td>$120.00 Single King</td>
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Rates are subject to 11.3% tax and $4.00 TPA assessment. Remind the hotels you are with the WFC Conference.

Keep an eye on our Annual Conference page under the Events tab on our web site for more details.
https://wfc.memberclicks.net/ourannualconference

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