Happy New Year!

Good riddance to 2020! Let’s hope 2021 brings good health, continued vigilance against this virus and vaccinations for all.

Just like all of you, the Washington Food Coalition learned how to adapt to life during this Pandemic. Our priority became sharing resources and helping you respond to the Pandemic.

We produced a daily COVID-19 newsletter, sharing important news and current information; offered two trainings in our Re-Emergence series - Nonprofit Financial Strategy in Response to Crisis and Volunteer Management: How to Build a Volunteer Community, including resources on how to open a DUNS and SAM account. We also offered GET READY: Disaster Planning Workshop. Including a Disaster Planning for Nonprofits Guide. All this information and tool kit are available on our web site, www.wafoodcoalition.org.

In 2021, we will continue to develop resources to help enhance your services by offering virtual trainings on Client In-take software programs, highlighting various in-take software programs including Link2Feed, Food Bank Manager, PantrySOFT and Compass 360. We will also be offering our Food Bank Certification Course, including sessions on Food Banking, Food Safety, Forms Training, Basic Nonprofit Information, and Volunteer Management, all virtually. These trainings will be coming in late January or February. Please keep reading our newsletter for training dates and times. We also will soon be sharing new guidance sheets on Mask Usage, Distributing Food Outside & Indoors, Staff and Volunteers With COVID-19 Symptoms and Accepting Food Donations. These were produced by the coalition – distilling information from a variety of sources to create easy to read guidance sheets for you and your volunteers.

We plan on offering our annual conference in 2021 - September 29th to October 1st in Wenatchee, of course only if we can do it safely depending on state governance. Mark your calendar!

Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued work and partnership,

Stay safe,

Trish Twomey
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206-729-0501
As we wrap up 2020 and enter into a new year, WSDA Food Assistance (FA) will be offering contractor inventory management training and providing recommendations for EFAP Spring Meeting processes and decision topics. We will also continue conversations with the Food Assistance Advisory Committee and contractors statewide to reduce barriers and clarify client intake processes for all FA programs.

In regards to client intake processes, we have already sent a letter to all contractors with the request that they send it to their subcontractors. This guidance outlines Client Intake and Data Collection requirements for Food Assistance programs. If you have not reviewed that letter yet, please do so to ensure your intake processes do not require unnecessary documentation. In addition to this letter, WSDA has committed to offering more training, tools, and resources on this issue. At our next WSDA Food Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting in early 2021, we will discuss what additional measures we can take to reduce client barriers while remaining compliant with program regulations. Future discussions will focus on needed alternatives to some common intake processes, further removal of barriers to client access, and considering policy changes that specifically prohibit requesting client documentation.

In the coming months we will have more information regarding state and federal legislation about the resources - both in food and money - that will hopefully be available for continued support throughout this next year as COVID-19 continues to impact hunger relief operations and client numbers across the state.

Above all, we are grateful to the hunger relief organizations across Washington who continue to be resilient in the face of unprecedented challenges. We know this has been a tough year for everyone, and are inspired by the way organizations have remained flexible and adapted so that people across the state do not have to go without food.

Please continue to communicate your needs and successes to your lead contractors, Food Assistance Regional Representatives, local Emergency Operation Center, and the Governor’s Food Security Coordination Team as applicable. We are each working to provide the best support possible, and are committed to addressing future challenges.

With appreciation for all you do,

Kim Eads
WSDA Food Assistance Program Manager
Our membership renewal process is in full swing. Please renew as soon as you can. Go to https://www.wafoodcoalition.org/membership. If you need assistance, please email Trish, trish@wafoodcoalition.org. Our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Many memberships are paid by your EFAP lead or contractor. Please check in with your EFAP contractor to see if they will be paying your dues on your behalf.

For programs paying individually, we offer a sliding scale for dues based on your annual operating budget Annual Operating Budget (AOB):

- $25: AOB of $50,000 or less
- $50: AOB of $51,000-500,000
- $100: AOB of $501,000-1 Million
- $250: AOB of $1 Million +

Your membership comes with benefits:

- Discounted fee to our annual conference and other trainings and events.
- A discounted copy of valuable resources manuals—Food Safety, Special Dietary Needs, Food Banking 101, and Best Practices.
- Monthly E-newsletters and printed/mailed newsletters 4 times/year newsletters.
- Training opportunities for staff & volunteers plus on-call help and assistance answering your questions about programs and services, models, and best practices, and more.
- Food Bank Certification course for your staff/volunteers.
- Access to a discounted membership with WA Non-profits, for even more fabulous trainings that are offered both online and in person, across the state.
- Access to over 300 other WFC members – your colleagues in the fight against hunger!
- Discounted agency insurance through great American Insurance/Conover.
- Your agency has a vote in the election of your district representatives.

**Washington Food Coalition Membership Renewal**

**Coming soon to your mailbox**

...new, simplified guidance sheets for your organization’s staff and volunteers.

The WFC created simplified guidance sheets on five topics including Masks and Facial Covering, Accepting Food Donations, What to Do When a Staff Person or Volunteer has COVID Symptoms, and Distributing Food Indoors and Outdoors. Each sheet boils down the important points you need to know and to follow. They are footnoted with sources and provide links to state policies from DOH, L & I and the Governor’s Proclamations.

*We hope you find this guidance helpful in your daily operations.*