



# INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

Working to grow markets for local products  
and increase demand for local products.

## KING COUNTY FARMERS SHARE PROGRAM CONNECTS SMALL FARMS TO EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS TO SUPPORT HUNGER RELIEF



### PARTNERS






- HARVEST AGAINST HUNGER
- KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
- SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD FARMERS MARKETS
- PCC COMMUNITY MARKETS



As the second year of the [King County Farmers Share](#) (KCFS) program, initial 2020 program plans included refining the young systems created to support 12 pilot hunger relief partners. However, COVID-19's impacts on the region's food system beginning in March soon tested the strength and efficacy of the program model, in which agencies receive grant funds and technical support to develop contracted purchasing relationships with local farms. Even before the pandemic, Harvest Against Hunger knew creating more direct supply chains from new relationships between agencies that distribute emergency food and the farms that grow it will increase resilience of the field-to-fork supply chain, ensuring fresh, healthy food goes to people rather than to waste. These facets of a localized food system were critical to addressing the increased food insecurity and economic instability brought on by COVID-19.

Ultimately, KCFS's existing structure, connections, and tools provided a foundation for replication to support hunger relief and small farms even beyond King County. Hunger relief partners appreciated the diverse, nutrient-dense foods available locally, from familiar blueberries and broccoli to kohlrabi and romanesco.

This program is generously funded by King Conservation District and in 2021, will support local small farms and emergency food providers and help to fill capacity gaps in transportation, storage, and long-term funding to ensure our local farm-to-food assistance network is successful and sustainable.

	PROGRAM OUTCOME	2019	2020
	\$ distributed to hunger relief for local farm purchasing	\$37,500.00	\$297,634.30*
	# of participating King County hunger relief organizations	12	15
	# of King County farms purchase from	24	51
	Lbs of produce purchased and delivered	20,592	90,792~
	Lbs of produce donated and gleaned	4,815	6,313

## EASTWEST FOOD RESCUE IS HELPING FEED WASHINGTON AND SUPPORT FARMERS



**PARTNERS**

**EASTWEST FOOD RESCUE**

EastWest Food Rescue started from a Facebook post sent out at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic trying to rescue one ton of crops to distribute to food banks. In the first 15 days, they had rescued 217 tons of food.

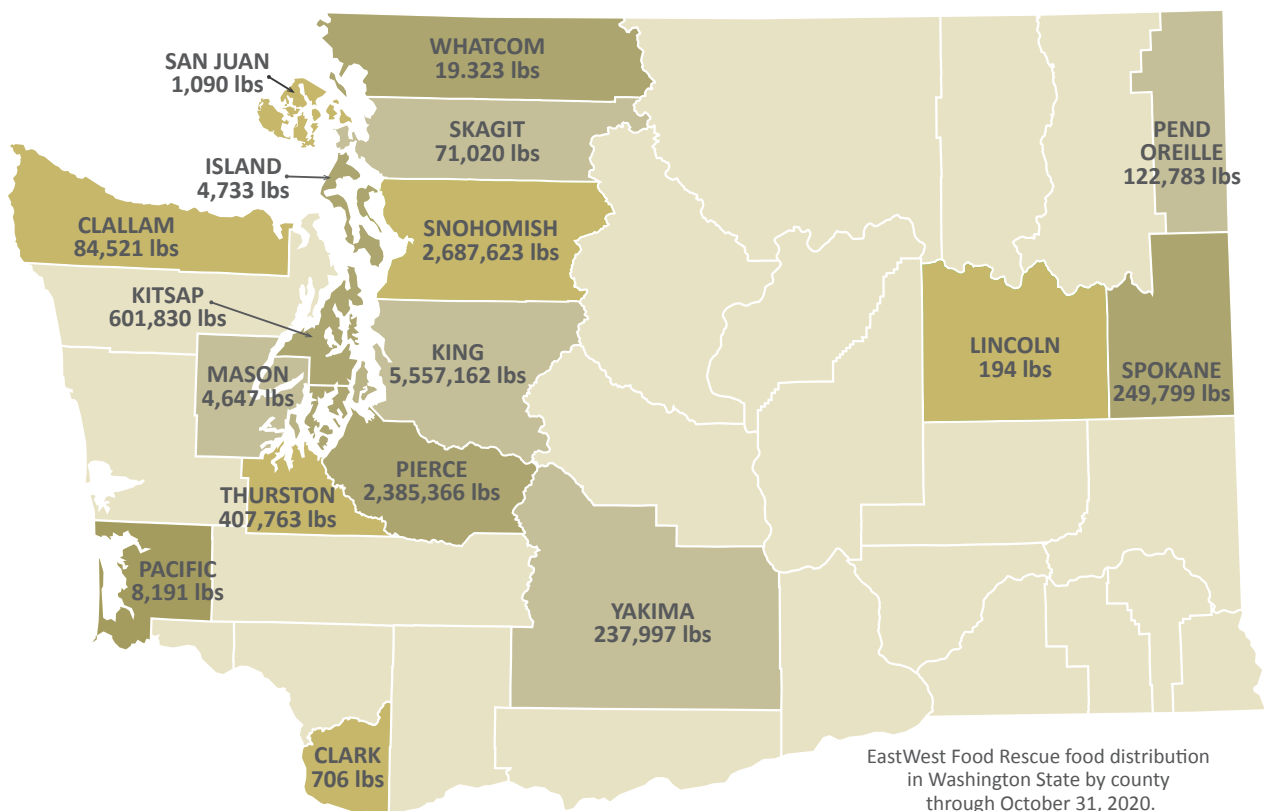
EastWest Food Rescue acquires or purchases surplus food predominately from farmers and distributes it with empathy to people in-need. As a volunteer led organization, EastWest coordinates every step from finding new sources of nutritious surplus food to organizing transportation to ensuring rescued food is given to people with food insecurity for free.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EASTWEST FOOD RESCUE

EastWest Food Rescue serves over 560 food banks, senior centers, community kitchens, grade-school food programs, Native American tribes, and other helping food organizations predominantly in the Northwest. They currently serve a total of 19 states.

### CARINGLY FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS IN WASHINGTON STATE



EastWest Food Rescue food distribution in Washington State by county through October 31, 2020.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO PRODUCE THROUGH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INCENTIVES



Food insecurity more than doubled in King County during 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, making the availability of food assistance even more important. To help address this need, the [Washington State Department of Health’s SNAP Market Match](#) incentive program doubled SNAP users benefit dollars when they purchased fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets. Twenty-three farmers markets in King County participated in the SNAP Market Match program during the summer. Together they distributed

\$582,077 in SNAP benefits and incentive dollars to keep families fed with healthy produce purchased at local farmers markets. This is a 5% increase from the use of SNAP and fruit and vegetable incentives at farmers markets in 2019. Additional programs and support were provided by the City of Seattle’s Fresh Bucks program.

The state program also supported incentives through the Complete Eats program and fruit and vegetable prescriptions that were redeemable at Safeway stores. An additional \$497,582 of incentives were distributed to SNAP users through these two programs to increase access to fruits and vegetables.



## FOOD VOUCHER PROGRAM: ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY DURING COVID-19

From October to December 2020, Public Health – Seattle & King County contracted with 30 community-based organizations and two community navigators to distribute 21,500, \$100 food vouchers to community members experiencing food insecurity. King County directed federal [CARES Act](#) dollars to fund this program to address increased food insecurity in King County resulting from COVID-19. This funding supported Black and Indigenous communities, communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities that have been unable to access other forms of government aid due to structural or institutional barriers, including fear of deportation or those experiencing gender-based violence in King County. Over 90% of the food vouchers were redeemed in areas of South King County in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and are experiencing food insecurity at higher rates.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEATTLE-KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

## PROVIDING CULTURALLY RELEVANT FOOD THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMICS



### PARTNERS

LAKE BURIEN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SOUTHWEST YOUTH &  
FAMILY SERVICES  
PARA LOS NINOS  
COLECTIVA LEGAL  
DEL PUEBLO



Community organizations developed new approaches to support families with food during the pandemic, and ways to make that food more culturally relevant. One example is [Alimentando El Pueblo](#), or Feeding El Pueblo, which began distributing culturally relevant food in the Highline area of King County in the summer of 2020. Cofounder Roxana Pardo Garcia of La Roxay Productions comments that, “People are thankful to have access to food banks, but

there’s something special about seeing food you’re familiar with.” Based at Lake Burien Presbyterian Church, community members could choose between a Mexican box that included items like Chile California and tortillas, a Central American box with items like condensed milk, or a Caribbean box with yucca and plantains.

Feeding El Pueblo received donations and grants to served 853 families and delivered 2,550 boxes of nonperishable items and produce in 2020. They worked to source produce from local Latinx grocers and farmers to support the community. “ Our hope with the project was to also invest directly in Latinx-owned businesses,” Pardo Garcia said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEATTLE-KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH