



Local Impact of Federal Cuts to Emergency Food System

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Current and Anticipated Federal Cuts – Overview of the Programs

- TEFAP – The Emergency Food Assistance Program
 - CCC – Commodity Credit Corporation
- LFPA – Local Food Purchasing Agreements
- SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- LFS – Local Food for Schools

Current Cuts – TEFAP, LFPA & LFS

- TEFAP: \$500 million in Federal TEFAP CCC food purchases have been permanently canceled, ~\$17 million dollars worth of food for Washington.
- LFPA: \$500 million in Federal LFPA funding terminated, including \$8,494,890 in Washington.
- LFS: Local Food for Schools cut by \$660 Million. Seattle Public Schools will experience a \$500,000 cut in 2025–27.

Anticipated Cuts: SNAP

- 1,229,520 people in WA received SNAP for at least one month in 2024.
- 201,747 in KC received SNAP in 2024, with an annual value of \$435,967,171
- The House has directed Ag Committee to reduce USDA budget by \$400 billion
 - At least \$230 billion of this to come from SNAP
- Food bank impacts: Visits increased 26% statewide, with 13.4M visits in 2024 (2014–2022 average: 8.2M)
 - There were approximately 22,000 more visits to Seattle food banks in 2024 than in 2023

Anticipated Cuts: SNAP

- Meal program impacts: From 2023 to 2024, Seattle meal programs reported an average increase in number of meals served of 24%
- Cuts to SNAP will only increase the strain on food banks and meal programs

Anticipated Cuts: Secondary Impact of SNAP Cuts

- When the SNAP program becomes more restrictive, fewer Seattle residents are enrolled in SNAP which means:
 - Fewer schools reaching the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
 - Fewer families receiving Summer EBT
 - A smaller TEFAP allocation for the state
 - Fewer families receiving benefits automatically triggered by EBT participation
- WA will be disproportionately affected – we maximize waivers, etc. to make it easier for folks to qualify

Anticipated Cuts: Tariffs

- Increased food prices disproportionately affect lower income individuals
- Meal program and food bank budgets are stretched to a breaking point
 - Distributors like FLL have less product to distribute
 - Food banks currently have empty shelves
 - Meal programs are decreasing variety and portion sizes

Anticipated Cuts: Other Budget Cuts

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) cuts: these assistance programs could end as soon as October, having folks have money to afford utility assistance means they have the ability to afford other basic needs, such as food. LIHEAP in WA is connected to SNAP eligibility.
- AmeriCorp Cuts: The entire National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC) and over 75% of the national administrative office have been terminated.
 - Prior to cuts WA state had 5,300 serving members

Reduced Capacity for the Local Food Safety Net

- In 2024, Seattle food banks distributed 1.25 million pounds (or \$2.7 million worth of food) from the TEFAP CCC program. That's about 5% of our total food supply.
- With the cancellation of LFPA, Seattle food banks will lose approximately \$300,000 of purchasing capacity with our local farmers and growers, which provides locally grown produce and other goods (hard to come by in food banks).
 - Supported 11 local farmers (all small and most are BIPOC-owned/operated).

Solutions

- Use the Local Food Action Plan as a guide in the budget process – strategies already identified in the plan are even more urgent
 - Action 1.A – Prioritize Culturally Relevant & Equitably Purchased Foods in City Food Programs
 - Action 1.C – Strengthen the Capacity of Meal Programs & Food Banks
 - Action 1.F – Strengthen Out-of-School Food Programs
 - Action 1.G – Sustain & Strengthen Food & Meal Programming for Older Adults
 - Action 1.J – Prioritize Food Access for Unsheltered Populations

Solutions (continued)

- Collaborate with members of the Washington congressional delegation, including Senator Murray and Representative Jayapal, to defend investments in the Federal budget.
- Connect with members of the Seattle legislative delegation to support a 2025–27 state budget that protects food security investment.
- Strengthen local government food security by collaborating with the Mayor's office, members of the King County Council, the US Conference on Mayors, and National League of Cities.
- Explore all options the City of Seattle has to increase food security investments, including additional progressive revenue.

Thank you

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