



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Emergency Food Network

Address:
3318 92nd St. South
Lakewood, WA 98499

Contact:
(253) 584-1040
<https://www.efoodnet.org>

Organization's General Goals:
The mission of Emergency Food Network (EFN) is "to provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse and nutritious food supply so that no person goes hungry."

Date of Award:	Level:
2018 Q3	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Emergency Food Network.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org

Emergency Food Network Co-op Food Purchasing Program Report

Emergency Food Network (EFN) is grateful for the support from the Tulalip Tribes in our mission “to provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse, and nutritious food supply so that no person goes hungry.” EFN has a network of 76 partner food pantries, meal sites, and shelters. Each month, we provide our Partner Programs with more than one million pounds of food, at no cost to them. One way that we provide our Partner Programs with a consistent supply of nutritious food is by purchasing food through our Co-op Food Purchasing Program. ***Support from the Tulalip Tribes helped EFN purchase and distribute 959,273 pounds of food through the Co-op Food Purchasing Program.***

Program Highlights

In 2018, EFN achieved the following with the support of the Tulalip Tribes:

- Distributed 13,894,380 pounds of food
- Supported our Partner Programs in serving 1,335,373 guest visits
- 97% of our Partner Programs shared that they were able to maintain an adequate supply of staple food



Volunteers repack beans purchased through the Co-op Food Purchasing Program into family sized bags.

The Need

Food insecurity continues to be a pressing need in Pierce County, with one in seven adults and one in five children unable to consistently access affordable and nutritious food. Each month, our Partner Programs serve 111,000 visits made by children, adults, and seniors. While some people will visit a food pantry just once, when an unexpected expense puts a strain on the household’s budget, many people visit a food pantry multiple times a year as a regular source of groceries for their house.

The lack of affordable housing contributes to food insecurity in Pierce County. Cities throughout the county are experiencing hikes in rental prices, from Tacoma, which saw a 7% year-over-year rental increase from 2018 to 2019, to Spanaway, which experienced a 21% hike in the same

time period. Unfortunately, incomes are not increasing at the same rate, putting households under even more of a strain to pay for all of their basic needs. Families may choose to move to more affordable communities or find other ways to reduce their expenses, unfortunately some families may end up losing housing entirely when prices become unaffordable. The 2019 Point-in-Time Count found that 1,486 people in Pierce County are homeless, with most people saying that a lack of affordable housing was the primary reason they were homeless.

We recently visited some of our Partner Programs to speak with their guests. Their guests shared the following stories about their experiences with food insecurity and how visiting a food pantry assists them:

“I moved to Eatonville from Puyallup when I heard that rent at my senior living home was increasing by \$200 a month. I don’t get SNAP benefits, so I come to the food pantry for extra help when I need it.”

“I live on a pay check to pay check budget, and I can’t afford groceries after I’ve paid for my car and my mortgage.”

“I started coming to this food bank when I was diagnosed with cancer. My doctor told me I needed to eat healthier and I couldn’t afford to do that. I need this food bank to supplement my groceries. I would not be eating vegetables if I didn’t get them here, I used to eat almost all pre-packaged foods that I could microwave, because that’s all I could afford. Now I eat well and feel better.”

Impact

Support from the Tulalip Tribes was used to support our Co-op Food Purchasing Program. The Co-op Food Purchasing Program provides our Partner Programs with a consistent supply of nutritious, staple foods. This was particularly important last year due to a sharp decrease in food donations. One of our closest donation partners reduced their monthly donations to EFN by 84,000 pounds per month, a 40% decrease from 2017. Fortunately, because we were able to purchase foods through the Co-op Food Purchasing Program, 97% of our Partner Programs shared that they were able to maintain an adequate supply of staple food.

We distributed 959,273 pounds of food through the Co-op Food Purchasing Program in 2018, equivalent to 767,418 meals. Co-op purchases included dried beans, canned green beans, canned peaches, Cornish hens, chicken drumsticks, rice, oats, and milk. We leveraged co-op food with donated food, government food, and produce grown at Mother Earth Farm to distribute 13,894,380 pounds of food. With the support of EFN, every time someone visited one of our Partner Programs, they were able to leave with enough food for nine meals.

Each year, we send our Partner Programs a survey in order to prepare an Outcomes Based Evaluation (OBE). We ask our partners to share their challenges and successes from the year and the ways in which EFN can improve our services to their program. We learned the following from our most recent annual survey:

- 97% of our Partner Programs maintained an adequate supply of staple food
- 97% of our Partner Programs were able to access food when needed from EFN
- 95% of our Partner Programs did not have to turn away a guest due to a lack of food.

This year, we also asked our Partner Programs to rank the usefulness of co-op foods and to share an additional food purchase that would be most useful for their site. We may use this feedback to make slight alterations to our Co-op Food Purchasing Program if we can find affordable alternatives.

Our Partner Programs shared the following feedback about our partnership in 2018:

“We are so very blessed in our partnership with EFN. Every delivery is exciting! Everyone is so very caring and supportive! The warehouse and drivers take really good care of us.”

“We couldn’t do it without you! The great attitude when we call really helps us in a positive direction. Thank you for all you do for us!”

“EFN has been doing an outstanding job supporting the local food banks and food pantries. Thank you so much!”



Food bank staff with milk after their first delivery from EFN.

EFN is grateful for the support from the Tulalip Tribes. Your partnership helped EFN meet the nutritional needs of children, adults, and seniors in Pierce County. When people have their basic needs met, they can focus in the classroom, are productive employees, and can live a better overall life. Thank you for helping us ensure that no person goes hungry.