Funds Distribution Report



8802 27th Ave NE Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Recipient Organization:

Emergency Food Network of Tacoma and Pierce County

Address:

3318 92nd St S Lakewood, WA 98499

Contact:

(253) 584-1040

https://www.efoodnet.org

Organization's General Goals:

Our mission is to provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse and nutritious food supply so that no person goes hungry.

Date of Award: Level:

2024 Q3 \$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Emergency Food Network of Tacoma and Pierce County.



...so that no person goes hungry.

03/31/2025

Tulalip Tribes 8802 27th Ave NE Quil Ceda Village, WA 98271-8063

Dear Marilyn,

Emergency Food Network is grateful for the support of Tulalip Tribes in 2024. As an expression of our gratitude, we are sending this Courtesy Report to showcase some of our shared successes in 2024 and offer a glimpse at EFN's 2025 outlook. This will not replace any reports outlined in grant agreements.

Thanks to your gift of in 2024, EFN was able to distribute 13.8 million pounds of food to our 75+ partner food pantries, meal sites, and shelters. With the food our partners received from EFN and other sources, they accommodated 3,143,622 guest visits. That is enough visits to fill the seats in Tacoma Dome 150 times over.

This record-breaking need for emergency food in Pierce County reflects a steady rise in food insecurity over recent years. In 2024, visits to our Partner Programs were 130% higher than before the pandemic. This trend is apparent in WSDA food assistance data. In fiscal year 2024, 1 in 4 Washington residents visited a food pantry, up from 1 in 7 in 2019. Unfortunately, federal and state funding cuts threaten to compound food insecurity. The USDA has halted over \$1 billion in federal food purchases that supported food banks and schools. House budget proposals could limit school meal access and cut SNAP benefits by \$1.40 per day for all participants. State budget cuts proposed by Governor Ferguson would slash \$52 million in food bank funding over the next biennium. This uncertainty around public-level spending means the role of private philanthropy has never been more crucial in addressing food insecurity.

With these challenges in mind, it is more important than ever that EFN stays connected to our Partner Programs. As an opportunity for them to share their challenges and successes throughout the year, we send out annual surveys to our partners. This is a chance for them to communicate the impact EFN's partnership has had on their program. In 2024, 97% of our partners reported that they were able to access food when needed from EFN. This shows that EFN's approach to collecting, storing, and distributing food is effective in strengthening Pierce County's emergency food system. Additionally, 93% of our partners did not have to turn away a guest due to a lack of food during the year.

The true impact of our services is evident in the stories we hear from community members. One of the many stories we heard in 2024 came from Lynda. Lynda is a senior with heart issues who is connected to EFN through our Home Delivery Program and who qualifies for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). CSFP is a federal program that provides seniors with nutritious food. Upon receiving a delivery, Lynda shared that she "had not had as much fresh produce in such good condition in a very long time," and that she "made a fruit salad and a vegetable soup and had enough for several meals." She added that she was planning to use the fresh lettuce and bell peppers with some chicken for a salad at dinner. Lynda's story highlights the profound impact that emergency food services can have on some of our most food insecure neighbors, including seniors who often lack transportation.





...so that no person goes hungry.

Along with distributing 13.8 million pounds of food to our 75+ Partner Programs, EFN accomplished the following in 2024:

- We spent \$1,724,049 on the Co-op Food Purchasing Program to purchase and distribute 2.6 million pounds of food, ensuring our Partner Programs have access to a consistent supply of staple foods.
- With the help of 49 volunteers, our Home Delivery Program completed 13,352 deliveries, containing 463,522 pounds of food in total. These deliveries helped connect some of our most isolated neighbors to a caring community through our staff and volunteers.
- We completed construction on a new 21,780-square-foot warehouse called The Greens. This added space is vital to help meet the unprecedented demand for emergency food services.
- We made essential upgrades to our main warehouse, including installing a new fire suppression system that protects EFN's food supply from potential fire-related catastrophes.
- In a pilot program with Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, we delivered medically tailored groceries to 99 community members with chronic diseases, including diabetes and heart failure.
- For the eleventh consecutive year, we partnered with St. Leo's Food Connection and the Clover Park School District to distribute 2,000 Break Bags each fall, winter, and spring break—totaling 6,000 bags of nutritious food for hungry students and families while school was not in session.

In support of our mission to ensure no person goes hungry, our goal is to distribute 20 million pounds of food in 2025.

Thank you for being part of EFN's success in 2024. Because of your generosity, you helped to bridge the gap between the growing need for emergency food services and the available supply. If you would like to schedule a tour of our Distribution Center, you can contact our Corporate and Foundation Relations Coordinator, Clayton Haglund, at 253.584.1040 or ClaytonH@efoodnet.org.

Gratefully,

Michelle Douglas

CEO