



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**West Seattle Food Bank**

**Address:**  
3419 SW Morgan St  
Seattle, WA 98126

**Contact:**  
(206) 932-9023  
<https://www.westseattlefoodbank.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
It is our priority to keep our community healthy while continuing to ensure all our neighbors have access to food, emergency financial assistance, clothing, diapers, and other basic needs.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2022 Q2	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from West Seattle Food Bank.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulipCares.org**

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## WEST SEATTLE FOOD BANK 2022-23 Final Report

West Seattle Food Bank would like to extend our gratitude to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions for the generous grant of [REDACTED] for the Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance program during 2022-23. It is through the support of partners like you that we can provide essential resources, including emergency assistance, to our neighbors. We are eager to share more about the impact of your contribution in this 2022-23 Final Report.

### Organization Overview

West Seattle Food Bank was founded in 1983 by a group of concerned neighbors who responded to the urgent need for a community food bank. For over 40 years, WSFB has been providing access to food, clothing, emergency rent and utility assistance, connections to community resources, and other essential services for community members. Annually, we offer responsive, community-informed programs to thousands of families, seniors, and individuals from the greater West Seattle area. Through our community-centered approach, West Seattle Food Bank is working towards our vision of a strong and connected community in which all people have access to safe and nutritious food and the essential necessities of living.

### 2022-23 Program Activities

Throughout the year, West Seattle Food Bank offers an array of programs across four core pillars:

**1. Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance:** We prevent homelessness and utility shut offs by distributing emergency financial assistance to ensure neighbors can remain in their homes and community. This service is critical to lowering the risk factors for eviction and displacement, and for maintaining a sense of stability for very vulnerable individuals.

**2. Food Bank Services:** Our Food Bank Services offer a wide selection of food to meet the dietary and cultural food needs of the communities we serve. These services include:

- Our facility-based food bank, open on Tuesday through Friday and serving communities throughout the region. This service also provides diapers and other essential items for families with infants and young children; and pet food to maintain the health of our neighbors' furry friends.
- The Mobile Food Bank, currently coordinating food distributions at the Senior Center of West Seattle and five apartment buildings. These buildings house very low-income individuals or families, many of whom have been chronically homeless or are elderly, disabled, immigrants, or facing psychiatric and/or addiction challenges.
- Home Delivery services, bringing food directly to the homes of individuals in the following zip codes (98106, 98108, 98116, 98118, 98126, 98136, and 98146).





- Our Backpack Program, partnering with local schools to offer weekend food for students at risk of hunger when school meals are not available.

**3. The Clothesline:** This service offers individuals of all ages (infant to adult) new and like-new clothing, hygiene products, and more at no cost to neighbors in need.

**4. Community Resources:** We helped our underserved neighbors by providing referrals and access to childcare, diapers, education, workforce development, domestic violence assistance, legal assistance, medical assistance, transportation, internet, and more through our network of partners.

Collectively, these programs made the following impacts between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023:

- Distributed a total of 2.4 million pounds of food via our main Food Bank and Mobile Food Bank Services.
- Extended support to households with food on 98,382 occasions.
- Offered a diverse range of nutritious and culturally relevant food choices.
- Provided food for up to 175 households weekly through our Mobile Food Bank.
- Partnered with 9 local schools to distribute 6,070 weekend food packages for students battling food insecurity.
- Provided weekly food deliveries to over 400 households weekly.
- Provided emergency financial assistance to 1,448 neighbors to cover rent and utility bills.
- Distributed 48,019 items through our Clothesline, valued at \$320,181



### Community

West Seattle Food Bank deliberately focuses our outreach and service efforts within zip codes where the majority of our neighbors face significant financial challenges, with incomes below the poverty level, and represent communities that are historically underserved and marginalized. Our primary zip codes of 98106, 98108, 98116, 98118, 98126, 98136, and 98146 have become the epicenter of our operations, enabling us to concentrate our resources where they are most urgently needed. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being least vulnerable and 10 being the most, WSFB's US census tract is rated 10 according to the Washington State Department of Health. The tract adjacent to the east is rated as a nine. These tracts are also rated as 9 or 10 in percentage of individuals living in poverty. In the fiscal year 2023, our client demographics further illustrate our commitment to inclusivity and representation. Among our clients, 42% are of Asian descent, 24% identify as White, 14% as Hispanic, 9% as Black, 3% as Native Americans, and 3% as other. These statistics highlight the diversity of our community and the importance of tailoring our services to address the specific needs and experiences of everyone.

We place great emphasis on actively engaging and reflecting the diverse community we serve, working with our neighbors to ensure their access to essential resources. We have implemented a range of strategies to actively engage and reflect our community. One key approach is conducting surveys, engaging in conversations, and conducting interviews to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural and dietary preferences of our community members. By actively seeking input, we can tailor our offerings to better meet the unique needs of individuals, including those with East African, Halal, Asian, and Hispanic



dietary preferences and requirements. This targeted approach ensures that we provide food items that are both culturally appropriate and aligned with the preferences of our diverse community.

### **Challenges & Solutions**

In FY 2023, West Seattle Food Bank received an increase of requests for assistance from our neighbors. This is mainly due to Inflation, poverty, unemployment, inequities, food insecurity, and the lingering effects of COVID-19. These issues have made it more difficult for community members to afford necessities, rent, utilities, transportation, and more. Previous assistance programs that have helped people throughout the COVID-19 pandemic period have now ended, leaving our underserved neighbors with more financial challenges. We have turned to partners for help, but we see that our partners are also facing a reduction in available assistance.

Despite these alarming hardships and needs, West Seattle Food Bank made a commitment to meet the needs of our neighbors and sustain our increased output across our programs. To make this a reality, the organization's leadership and board approved an operating deficit of  $-\$797,877$ , which would be covered by unrestricted reserves. But thanks to core funders like Tulip Tribes Charitable Contributions, conservative budgeting, and careful fiscal oversight, we were able to decrease this planned deficit by almost 62%.

In the face of mounting challenges such as inflation, funding limitations, food shortages, and escalating requests, our ability to meet the demands of all our clients has been tested. However, through close collaboration with our dedicated partners, funders, volunteers, and community members, we have not only tackled these emerging issues head-on but also managed to sustain and expand our organization. The obstacles we have encountered along the way have provided us with valuable lessons and insights, enabling us to enhance our budgetary efficiency, increase our operational capacity, and optimize our overall performance. With your partnership, we can further strengthen our impact and make a lasting difference in the lives of individuals and families facing hardship in our community.

### **Conclusion**

Thanks to the invaluable support from Tulip Tribes Charitable Contributions, the West Seattle Food Bank has been able to proactively address the evolving challenges within our community, safeguarding countless families from the grips of hunger and the threat of homelessness. We deeply value our collaboration and look forward to your continued alliance as we amplify the strength of community through neighbors supporting neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fran Yeatts', written over a faint outline of the West Seattle Food Bank logo.

Fran Yeatts, *Executive Director*  
fran@westseattlefoodbank.com