



WSU EXTENSION
Jefferson County



SNAP-Ed 2021

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2021, in collaboration between WSU Extension, local farms and Jefferson County food banks:

- **2,059 lbs** of produce was purchased from **local farms**
- an additional **18, 014 lbs** was **donated** or **gleaned**
- the Jefferson County program received **\$5,686 in WSDA funds** and raised another **\$1,479 in community funds**
- **6 new partnerships** were formed with community organizations doing food access work



ISSUE

The Olympic Peninsula, including Jefferson and Clallam counties, is a rural and remote part of Washington State. The 2019 WA Statewide SNAP-Ed needs assessment, specifically pointed out the limited services and unique challenges faced by Olympic Peninsula community members that compound the already challenging nature of eating healthy on a limited budget while balancing busy schedules and other priorities. Feeding America's "Map the Meal Gap" estimates that there are more than 14,000 people living with food insecurity in Clallam and Jefferson counties, with nearly 4,000 food insecure children. The causes of poverty, poor health and limited food access are systemic and often insurmountable. These structures and systems prevent people with limited resources from accessing wholesome, nutritious food and opportunities for physical activities.

RESPONSE

At SNAP-ED, we utilize a multi-faceted and evidence-based Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) change framework that supports a local, sustainable and equitable food system. We are building partnerships with community organizations and local service providers such as food banks, schools and health care departments to provide broad representation and develop programming that meets the needs of SNAP-ED clients. Together with these community partners, SNAP-ED is working to make healthy food more accessible, and to remove the barriers people face when shopping for food and planning meals, such as the cost, variety, freshness and proximity of fruits and vegetables.

The goal of the SNAP-Ed program is to "improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) food guidance."

SNAP-ED of Jefferson County supports the local food system through farm to food bank programming and cultivating the sharing of existing food sources through partnerships with gleaners, home growers, community gardens and food bank farms. The Farm to Food Pantry Project provides grant funds through Harvest Against Hunger and the Washington State Department of Agriculture to set up contracts with farmers to provide food for the food bank.



IMPACTS

- Working with seven local farms, we have purchased over 2000 pounds of local produce for Jefferson County Food Banks. The Farm to Food Pantry program works with both established and beginning farmers to provide pre-season contracts that can be mutually beneficial to farmers during the early part of their season and ensuring fresh produce throughout the season to food pantries. Due to these relationships, and learning feedback from food bank clients and managers, F2FP has led to produce procurement during the late fall and early spring months when otherwise the food banks would have limited fresh foods available.
- Partnering with Jefferson County Food Bank Association to support volunteers and managers in understanding and responding to client needs and empowering clients to make healthy choices. Through these relationships SNAP-ED coordinator and food bank volunteers and management about increasing client choice options and produce displays that are more inviting, user friendly and beautiful for food bank clients. Together with Food Bank Farm and Gardens of Jefferson County, over 18,000 pounds of food was donated to four food pantries, including more fresh produce making it's way to South County pantries in Quilcene and Brinnon.
- Participation in monthly meetings with the Peninsula Food Coalition and Jefferson County Food Security Work Group has lead to six new partnerships including The Community Wellness Project, The Chimacum Center, Jefferson Health Care, Jefferson County Farmers Market, Chimacum School District and Food Bank Farm and Gardens of Jefferson County. Building relationships with existing community organizations involved in food access programming is key to creating a more just and equitable food system on the Olympic Peninsula.

