

# 2010 Legislative Agenda

**Questions?** Contact Kelsey Beck, Public Policy Manager  
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**1. In these tough economic times, one in nine Washington families is struggling to put food on the table. Protect current funding for Washington's front-line hunger-relief programs when they are needed most.**

Request: Protect funding for school, summer and child care meals, WIC and the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program, local food banks through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), senior meals and state funds to support the General Administration Food Programs.

**2. Preserve Washington's support for food banks and the tribal food program.**

Request: In the reorganization of programs under the new Department of Commerce, the Governor has proposed moving the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) and the General Administration Food Programs to the Department of Agriculture. During this move, ensure the continued funding and efficiency of the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) that allows local food assistance programs to respond to local hunger needs.

**3. Feed hungry children in Washington all year long.**

Request: Additional \$250,000 to build community capacity to address summertime child hunger and leverage \$2-3 million in federal funding through the Summer Meal Program.

**4. Support prompt and accurate access to the Basic Food Program.**

Request: DSHS Community Service Offices are the gateway to a variety of benefit programs essential to low-income families, particularly in the current economy. Restore funds for local office employees so that applicants receive prompt, respectful and accurate services.

**5. Authorize increased funding options and flexibility for Counties to fund human services.**

Request: Washington's Counties have limited revenue tools and, during the current economic downturn, have made drastic funding cuts for vital programs. In King County, Food Lifeline's hunger-relief funding was completely eliminated. Give counties new tools and increased flexibility to provide support for *both* mandated programs and human services, including lifting the supplantation language on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety sales tax.

**6. Take a balanced approach to addressing the economic recession.**

Request: In this economic downturn, the needs of families in our state are growing while Washington has fewer resources to help them. Continuing to cut vital programs would stall our economic recovery and hurt vulnerable working families, without solving the problem. Invest in the future by taking a balanced approach that includes options to raise revenue while implementing efficiencies.