Health Centered Food Banking

A project of the Washington Food Coalition
Who is the Washington Food Coalition and what do they do?

- Statewide membership coalition of 350+ hunger relief organizations – food banks, food pantries, meal programs & other partners
- 20 board members from 14 districts
- The WFC actively educates and networks with organizations that strive to alleviate hunger throughout Washington
- Staffed by an Executive Director, two independent contractors
- Provide resource materials, training, technical assistance and guidance on a variety of topics
- Annual 3-day conference
- Food safety and food bank certification courses
- Health Centered Food Banking
Health Centered Food Banking Project

- Nutrition Policy development
- Nutrition education support
- Training on the SWAP Program to encourage healthy food choices and improve inventory (an approved SNAP-Ed Intervention!)
- Financial support for translation, printing, and purchasing
- One-on-One technical assistance via virtual working sessions
- Client survey development
- Other resource development (e.g., donor guidelines)
Providing SWAP TA at the Darrington Food Bank
SWAP at Upper Valley Mend
April 2023 Updates

- 42 programs outreached in 18 counties
- 7 new programs have adopted nutrition policies
- 10 programs with policies in-process
- 10 programs rolling out SWAP
- Monthly SWAP peer support sessions
- Nutrition education and on-site demos
- Working on improving grocery store donations to increase nutritious and culturally specific foods
- Partnership with the American Heart Association
- Pantry signage project in development
What’s Next?

1. Increase funding to help purchase more nutritious foods for communities.
2. Maximize the nutritional quality and cultural relevance of foods in the hunger relief network.
3. Support and strengthen corporate pantry partnerships to align with nutrition goals and improve donations.
4. Facilitate collaboration, partnerships and streamline/improve communication to achieve nutrition security for all.