



FOOD ACCESS REPORT 2022



2022 IMPACT



A big part of our recovery in 2022 was deepening and expanding one of the core pillars of our work: food access. Through partnerships with agencies and community based organizations, and trusted relationships with our growers, NFM worked to eliminate disparities in access to Washington-grown produce for Seattle households facing food insecurity. This is the aim of all food

access programming within the Neighborhood Farmers Markets. And the central resource and solution is right in our backyard: local farmers and producers. Programs like SNAP Market Match and Fresh Bucks saw a record numbers of participants and redemption in our farmers markets. Demand for consistent sources of fresh food from hunger relief organizations continued to increase amidst record inflation and need. Together, with commitment from 26 community-based organizations and more than 175 Washington producers:

1

We facilitated food access to a record number of low-income neighbors through our farmers markets.

2

We reached communities not otherwise served by farmers markets through a network of community-based organizations.

3

We strengthened our community of Washington farmers through participation and economic opportunity.

OUR FARMERS MARKETS ARE A SPACE FOR EVERYONE TO BUY GROCERIES

We work with public agencies and small growers to ensure everyone can use food assistance programs to purchase local, sustainable and healthy foods.

Shoppers who use SNAP/EBT in our markets receive a matching amount through SNAP Market Match, a program of the WA Department of Health (DOH). This year, SNAP/EBT and Market Match redemption across our seven farmers markets spending reached \$673,793. This 7% increase in participation is due in part to the continuation of Pandemic-EBT and the rising rates of food insecurity caused by the pandemic, inflation, and disruptions to our economy.

State and local programs aimed at reaching additional populations saw similar increases. The Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) directed an additional \$165,045 in nutritious food to participants in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program and to seniors in our community.

Within the City of Seattle, Fresh Bucks participation expanded and enabled an additional \$102,003 of fruits and vegetables for participating households.

NFM is proud of the food access programs that are designed to make local food accessible to all. These programs target low-income, underserved, and minority communities. Our goal is to make the markets welcoming to everyone!



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The [Hunger Intervention Program \(HIP\)](#) offered cooking demonstrations at the Lake City Farmers Market. Using fresh food from our vendors, HIP cooked and shared weekly recipes. Our shoppers enjoyed getting ideas on how to use products from the market in their own cooking.



PARTNERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL FOR STRONG COMMUNITY SYSTEMS THAT WORK IN SERVICE FOR EVERYONE



We are part of a large network of people, producers, business, and organizations that make up our regional food system.

Partnerships enable us to connect more people to regional producers.

Through our Helping Harvest program, institutions and hunger relief organizations provide vouchers for their clients. These vouchers can be used at our markets to buy farm products, empowering shoppers by providing choice as well as the opportunity to connect directly to where their food comes from. Our Helping Harvest partners represent food banks, social service organizations, and colleges. Vouchers have been shared among children and family programs, mobile food sites, walk-up customers, home delivery services, senior food programs, and students.

A client returned a week after receiving the vouchers and was very excited to report back on how happy they were to shop at the Capitol Hill farmers market. They had never shopped there before and were thrilled to have an opportunity to buy the "most beautiful and delicious produce they have ever seen."

-- [Jewish Family Services](#)

We wanted to give our clients the option to shop for fresh produce on their own terms and to give them a different variety than what we had to offer. A few of our clients were happy to be able to use them on not just produce but for protein as well as other items they would not be able to normally buy afford like salmon and large pieces of pork.

-- [Puget Sound Labor Agency](#)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



North Helpline distribute produce they gleaned from the Lake City Farmers Market.

WASHINGTON FARMERS ARE A CRITICAL SOURCE OF FOOD FOR HUNGER RELIEF EFFORTS

Fresh food is going directly from our small farmers to local food banks.

Though Growing for Good, 17 farmers received early-season deposits to provide more than 59,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce to hunger relief organizations throughout their growing season. This model including up-front payments to farmers is made possible through our partnership with PCC Community Markets and Harvest Against Hunger. Now in its third year and with additional support from Public Health Seattle King County, we have more than doubled the amount of food provided.



This program is a different way for our participating farms to sell their products outside of the farmers markets. It familiarizes them with wholesale contracting and pricing, provides critical early-season income, and it offers them support to grow for a good cause.

A look at how we've grown:



2020	2021	2022
11 Farms	14 Farms	17 Farms
14 Food Banks	19 Food Banks	22 Food Banks
\$80,500 in Wholesale Contracts	\$120,000 in Wholesale Contracts	\$180,000 in Wholesale Contracts
28,070.32 lbs of produce	45,693.53 lbs of produce	59,347 lbs of food

OUR 2022

BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL FOOD ACCESS SALES
ACROSS ALL MARKETS

\$934,486

Combined SNAP, SNAP Market Match, Fresh Bucks, and FMNP programs

9 HELPING
HARVEST
PARTNERS

We tripled the number of partners participating in the Helping Harvest program from last year. Through a WSDA grant, NFM was able to fund market vouchers to new community organizations.



11%

INCREASE IN
TOTAL FOOD
ACCESS SALES
FROM 2021



29,646.85

POUNDS OF PRODUCE
GLEANED

LOOKING FORWARD

Our work to ensure access to local food and producers will deepen and continue in 2023

THE COLUMBIA CITY FARMERS MARKET WILL PROVIDE YEAR-ROUND ACCESS TO GROWERS AND RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE WINTER



A NEW WEEKNIGHT MARKET IN CAPITOL HILL WILL REACH COMMUTERS AND RESIDENTS ON TUESDAYS

NFM WILL WORK WITH THE CITY OF SEATTLE TO PILOT ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS FOR FRESH BUCKS RECIPIENTS IN SELECT MARKETS AND EXPAND ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE CITY



GROWERS WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS FROM WIC AND FMNP SHOPPERS, EXPANDING EASE OF USE AND PURCHASING POWER

Through our work and partnerships in the community, and by honoring our commitment to racial equity within the food system, we look forward to serving everyone who lives, works, and eats within our city!

THANK YOU

to all of the community partners, hunger relief organizations, funders, and agencies who work with us in pursuit of a stronger, more equitable food system!

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Counseling and Referral Services	Harvest Against Hunger	Puget Sound Labor Agency
Ballard Food Bank	Highline Area Food Bank	Rainier Valley Food Bank
Byrd Barr Place	Hopelink	Renewal Food Bank
Chicken Soup Brigade	Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank	Solid Ground
Community Lunch	Maltby Food Bank	South Seattle College Food Pantry
Des Moines Area Food Bank	North Helpline	St. Vincent de Paul - Georgetown Food Bank
Edmonds Food Bank	PCC Community Markets	University District Food Bank
FamilyWorks	Planet Worth	West Seattle Food Bank
FareStart		Westgate Chapel Food Bank

AGENCIES, IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS, & FUNDERS

City of Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

Washington State
Department of Agriculture

Washington State
Department of Health

Seattle King County
Public Health

Washington Department of
Health & Human Services

ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD FARMERS MARKETS

The Neighborhood Farmers Markets is a non-profit based in Seattle, Washington, that works to strengthen the local food system through economic opportunity, food access, and collaboration. The heart of NFM's mission for 30 years has been strengthening and supporting Washington's small-scale farmers by organizing producer-only farmers markets. NFM's markets support over 175 farm and food businesses from Washington state and generate more than \$12 million in income for these producers annually. NFM is additionally committed to empowering low-income residents to prioritize local food through programs like SNAP Market Match, client vouchers, and gleaning. In 2022, NFM's Good Farmer Fund surpassed \$700,000 in relief funding to growers facing unexpected emergencies.

206-547-2278 | [SEATTLEFARMERSMARKETS.ORG](https://seattlefarmersmarkets.org)

SEATTLE
NEIGHBORHOOD
FARMERS
MARKETS