Washington State Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program

Farmers Market & CSA Match

Year 1 Outcomes

Farm Fresh for Everyone:

Washington's Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Program helps families access fresh, local food.

Food insecurity in Washington. Everyday, thousands of people in Washington face uncertainty about where their next meal will come from. One in seven Washingtonians can't afford enough food for their household, 15% receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and 37% of those recipients are children. Fresh fruits and vegetables, an important part of a healthy diet, are not easily affordable with the average SNAP benefit budget.

Farmers Market Nutrition Incentives. With support from the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) grant, a growing network of farmers markets across the state are making it easier for families to afford more fruits and vegetables by matching SNAP dollars spent at the market. Customers who use their SNAP benefits at participating markets or community-supported agriculture (CSA) are matched with extra dollars they can use to buy more fresh fruits and vegetables. The match incentives vary depending on the vendor. For example, some markets match SNAP purchases dollar-for-dollar; others may match $2 for every $5 spent using SNAP benefits.

Year 1 At a Glance. In the first year of the FINI grant (April 2015—December 2015):

48	Farmers markets/Community-supported agriculture sites in **10 counties** across the state offered matching Incentives to SNAP customers
19,224	SNAP transactions were processed at farmers markets, with an average of **$7,123 SNAP transactions** per market
$261,006	SNAP reimbursements made to market vendors. The average value per SNAP transaction at the markets was **$15**.
$159,016	Value of incentives redeemed by SNAP customers to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. This is a **99.7% redemption rate**.
$284,639	Is the economic impact of the FINI grant in Year 1, based on USDA's estimate that $1.79 is generated in the local economy for every SNAP dollar spent.

About WA's FINI Program

In 2015, the Washington State Department of Health and over 60 multi-sector partners statewide won the largest FINI grant in the nation. FINI funds support innovative strategies to make it easier for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to afford more fruits and vegetables. Washington is testing three incentive strategies to increase fruit and vegetable purchases by SNAP customers:

- **Farmers Markets & CSA Match**
- **Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions**
- **Grocery Store Rebates/Discounts**

For more information, visit:
www.doh.wa.gov/CompleteEats

Washington State Department of Health

DOH 340-294 October 2019

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2015-70018-23357.

For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).