## Report to the Legislature



Prepared by
Fruit and Vegetable Incentives
Program
Prevention and Community Health



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# **Executive Summary**

The passage of Substitute House Bill 1587 created the Fruit and Vegetable Incentives Program (FVIP) in 2019. It requires the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to produce a program evaluation describing the program's effectiveness recommendations for improvements.

FVIP is administered by the Department of Health (department) in partnership with organizations across the state. It is made up of three subprograms that help people and families with limited incomes purchase more fruits and vegetables. The three subprograms are: <a href="Snap">Snap</a> <a href="Market Match">Market Match</a> (Farmers Market Basic Food Incentives), <a href="SNAP Produce Match">SNAP Produce Match</a> (Grocery Store Basic Food Incentives, and <a href="Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions">Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions</a> (Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers)

FVIP provided eligible individuals and families extra benefits to purchase fruits and vegetables to offset rising food prices during from the COVID-19 pandemic. From July 2019- June 2023, FVIP provided \$11,305,017 of incentives to Washingtonians.<sup>1</sup>

#### Recommendations

- 1. The Legislature should maintain current FVIP funding levels.
- 2. FVIP must continue to identify funds that integrate Basic Food Incentives onto the Basic Food card, including ongoing maintenance costs to fund program incentives as well as ongoing administrative costs.
- 3. FVIP must work with HCA to integrate Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions into the health care payment system.
- 4. FVIP should increase the number of locations that offer Basic Food Incentives in traditionally underserved communities.
  - 5. FVIP must collaborate with retail partners and the Community Advisory Network to address program barriers.
  - 6. FVIP must identify and implement innovative promotion strategies to reach underserved communities.
- 7. FVIP must improve data collection systems.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Page 10 of the report provides details about the economic impact of FVIP.

# Fruit and Vegetable Incentives Program

## **Background**

Access to safe, reliable, healthy, and affordable food is a key determinant of individual health outcomes and broader community well-being (2021 Fruit and Vegetable Incentives Program (FVIP) Progress Report to the Legislature). In 2021, 8.9 percent of Washington residents met the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) definition of food insecurity – lacking the financial resources to obtain adequate food – and 11.8 percent of children in Washington live in households experiencing food insecurity.

During the 2019 state legislative session, SHB 1587 was signed into law, which required the department to create a state Fruit and Vegetable Incentives Program to benefit people who are food insecure, our state's agricultural industry, and retailers across the state. As required by the legislation, FVIP includes three programs:

- <u>SNAP Market Match</u> (Farmers Market Basic Food Incentives)
   Shoppers receive extra money to spend on fruits and vegetables when they use their
   Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or "Basic Food" benefits, at participating farmers markets and farm stands.
- <u>SNAP Produce Match</u> (Grocery Store Basic Food Incentives)
   Shoppers receive extra money to spend on fruits and vegetables when they use their Basic Food benefits at participating grocery stores.
- <u>Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions</u> (Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers)
   Participating health care providers distribute fruit and vegetable vouchers to patients experiencing food insecurity.

Disparities in food insecurity persist across Washington. People living with lower incomes and racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to face accessibility and affordability barriers to healthy foods. vii

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food systems and prices have widened existing disparities. A 2023 survey conducted by University of Washington and Washington State University researchers found that 49% of sampled households experienced food insecurity in the past month. There were higher rates in households with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) residents, children, lower incomes, and renters. For food insecure households, groceries were reported as the most challenging bill to afford. iii

Individuals and families who experience food insecurity rely on nutrition assistance programs to eat. Washington programs include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, Basic Food in Washington),
- Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

As pandemic-era nutrition assistance services change and economic inflation continues, people with limited incomes will face additional barriers in buying healthy foods like fruit and vegetables.<sup>iv</sup>

Continuing state programs like FVIP will allow more people to afford and access fruits and vegetables. This will reduce food and nutrition security and improve health outcomes.

Section 2(6) of SHB 1587 requires the department to evaluate the program's effectiveness and include recommendations for program improvements. Information covered in this report spans July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2023.

### **Program Administration**

This section of the report provides updated information since the <u>2021 Progress Report to the Legislature</u> was released about funding used to administer FVIP, the partners and stakeholders who make FVIP possible, and future plans for the program.

### **Funding**

\$3 million of ongoing state funding was appropriated to FVIP by the Washington State Legislature in the 2021 – 2023 biennium. The Legislature appropriated an additional \$2 million to FVIP through SHB 1784 in April 2023, to support Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants after the COVID-19 emergency supplemental SNAP benefits ended.

For the 2023 - 2025 biennium, the Legislature appropriated \$9 million to FVIP to invest in the program's future and sustainability. Table 1 shows how state appropriations were used to administer the program for the 2019 - 2021 and 2021 - 2023 biennia.

The department used a mix of state, federal, local, and private funds to operate the subprograms from July 2019 – June 2023. FVIP provides direct food benefits to families, therefore the program requires funding for 'incentives' (i.e., client benefits), as well as funding for program administration.

See **Figure 1** in the appendix for a detailed timeline of funding supports FVIP has received.

Table 1: State Funding for the Fruit and Vegetable Incentives Program

	State Fiscal Year 2020	State Fiscal Year 2021	State Fiscal Year 2022	State Fiscal Year 2023
State Funds Appropriated to FVIP	\$2,000,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
State Expenditures on Incentives (Client Benefits)	\$1,539,005	\$1,286,528	\$866,329	\$776,883
State Expenditures on Program Administration (staff time, contractors, program materials, and indirect costs)	\$410,784	\$371,401	\$508,712	\$581,880
Total State Expenditures (on Incentives + Program Administration) *	\$1,949,789	\$1,657,929	\$1,375,041	\$1,358,763

<sup>\*</sup> Underspent funds are due to contractors underspending, and funds cannot roll over into new state fiscal years.

#### **Partners and Stakeholders**

FVIP relies on partnerships with multiple organizations across the state to implement subprograms. An updated list of partners is below, based on the subprogram in which they are most closely aligned. The department continues to gather strategic input from a network of state-level partners, including a Community Advisory Network (CAN). The CAN is made up of 12 people who use FVIP subprograms and provide feedback on program implementation efforts. The CAN meets monthly, with facilitation by Northwest Harvest, and network members are compensated for their time and contributions. More information about the group is available in the CAN's 2021 and 2022 reports.

#### **Strategic Partners**

- Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition
- Community Advisory Network
- Northwest Harvest
- Washington State Department of Agriculture

#### **SNAP Produce Match**

- Albertsons Companies/ Safeway\*
- Amazon Fresh\*
- Chimacum Corner Farm Stand\*
- Community Food Co-op\*
- Fiesta Foods\*
- SeaTac International Market

 Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

#### **SNAP Market Match**

- Birdsign Consulting
- Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington
- City of Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment
- Washington State Farmers Market Association
- Washington State University Extension Kitsap County
- 120 Farmers Markets and Farm Stands\*

- Skagit Valley Food Co-op\*
- Sophiya Grocery\*
- The Food Co-op\*

#### **Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions**

- Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS)
- Community Health Center of Snohomish County\*
- Harborview Medical Center\*
- MultiCare Health System Center for Health Equity and Wellness\*
- MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital\*
- Nisqually Tribal Health Department\*
- Odessa Brown Children's Clinic\*
- Puget Sound Kidney Centers\*
- Sea Mar Community Health Centers\*
- Yakima Neighborhood Health Services\*
- Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinics\*

#### **Future Plans**

Since passage of SHB 1587 in 2019, FVIP has distributed more food benefits to program participants each year. As the subprograms become more widely recognized by participants and providers, demand has increased. In 2020, \$1,940,143 incentives were redeemed across the three subprograms. In 2022, \$3,654,891 incentives were redeemed (88% increase over 2020 levels). In 2023, the department projects participants will redeem more than \$5 million in incentives.

FVIP was allocated \$9 million for the 2023 – 2025 biennium, an increase in funding from prior years. To maintain service levels as the 2023 – 2025 biennium, the department estimates a need of \$9 million in ongoing funds per biennium (\$4.5 million per year).

Maintaining a robust investment in FVIP, addresses three key needs:

- Fund state cost share requirements for the federal Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) grant
- 2. Enhance investment in SNAP Market Match and SNAP Produce Match
- 3. Entirely fund the Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions

Future plans are detailed for each subprogram and program administration below.

<sup>\*</sup> Organization or business provides incentives to shoppers or patients/clients.

#### **SNAP Market Match**

The department uses existing funding streams to:

- Continue to support Basic Food incentives with 120 farmers markets and farm stands.
- Add 15 farmers markets, farm stands, and/or direct marketing farmers to provide Basic Food Incentives to their shoppers in underserved areas.
- Work with state and local partners through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) SNAP-Ed and Basic Food Outreach programs, DOH WIC offices, and food banks to promote programs to clients to increase recognition and use.
- Pilot and offer Basic Food Incentives through the Basic Food card in collaboration with farmers who sell at nine farmers markets in Seattle, Pullman, and Pasco.

If current funding levels are maintained in future biennia, the department will be able to:

- Recruit additional farmers markets, farm stands, and/or direct marketing farmers into the program, prioritizing communities with lower incomes, high levels of food insecurity, no or few participating locations, and in rural settings.
- Work with more farmers markets and farmers to offer Basic Food Incentives through the Basic Food card (see Program Administration section below for more information).

#### **SNAP Produce Match**

The department uses existing funding streams to:

- Continue to support Basic Food Incentives with 211 grocery stores, including 2 online grocery options.
- Expand Basic Food Incentives to 38 more grocery stores.
- Work with state and local partners through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) SNAP-Ed and Basic Food Outreach programs, DOH WIC offices, and food banks to promote Basic Food Incentives to clients and increase program recognition and utilization.
- Pilot and offer Basic Food Incentives through the Basic Food card in collaboration with eight grocery stores.

If current funding levels are maintained in future biennia, the department will be able to:

- Recruit additional grocers into the program, prioritizing those who serve culturally relevant foods and/or communities with lower incomes, high levels of food insecurity, no or few participating locations, and in rural settings.
- Identify and work with additional grocery stores to offer Basic Food Incentives through the Basic Food card (see Program Administration section below for more information).

#### **Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions**

The department uses existing funding streams to:

- Offer Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions to 4,000 households per year, especially households served by Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Tribal Health Centers.
- Transition Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions from a paper voucher to a card to make it easier for participants and providers.
- Work with Health Care Authority (HCA) to offer Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions as a
  part of a Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver. Through this waiver, FVIP could
  leverage health care resources to offer Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions to more
  Washingtonians struggling with food insecurity.

If current funding levels are maintained in future biennia, the department will be able to:

• Continue offering Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions to 4,000 households per year (compared to 2021 – 2023 biennium level of 2,000 households per year).

#### **Program Administration**

**Funding** – The department recently received a new \$7.7 million USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) grant. This will support SNAP Market Match and SNAP Produce Match programs from September 2023 – August 2025. GusNIP grants are highly competitive and receiving federal funding in the future is not guaranteed. Using stable ongoing state, local, and private funds to meet the grant's cost share requirement will improve the likelihood of future GusNIP applications' success.<sup>2</sup>

Integrating Basic Food Incentives onto the Basic Food Account – In the 2021 FVIP Progress Report to the Legislature, a key programmatic recommendation was to work with DSHS to find funds for integrating Basic Food Incentives onto the Basic Food card. Moving Basic Food Incentives onto the Basic Food account will help reduce stigma for program participants and increase program efficiency by eliminating paper coupons. Basic Food Incentives will be automatically uploaded onto participants' Basic Food account/card once they make qualifying purchases.

In 2021, DSHS received a \$350,000 grant from the Share Our Strength Foundation to support building the technical infrastructure to put Basic Food Incentives onto the Basic Food account. The department and DSHS have worked closely on this project, and launched a pilot with farmers at the Pasco Farmers Market that adds incentives onto a customer's Basic Food account (rather than using paper coupons). In June 2023, Washington was awarded a \$7.6 million Electronic Healthy Incentives Project (eHIP) grant from the USDA to build on this pilot.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The GusNIP grant program is funded through the federal Farm Bill. Changes to the GusNIP grant program are expected for the 2023 Farm Bill, and may include: a reduction in the non-federal cost share requirement, and more available funds for states to reach SNAP participants with incentives.

This grant will allow DSHS and the department to work with at least 17 retail locations to offer Basic Food Incentives through the state's Basic Food account and card.

### **Program Results**

- From July 2019 June 2023, \$11,305,017 of fruit and vegetable incentives were redeemed across the three subprograms.
- As of June 2023, 120 farmers markets/farm stands and 211 grocery stores offered incentives to Basic Food recipients.
- 11 health care and public health agencies offered Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions to their food insecure patients and clients. Figure 2 in Appendix B is a map of the Washington counties with FVIP subprograms.

The amount of incentives presented below is different from those presented in Table 1, which shows the state expenditures. The incentives information below includes the state expenditures as well as expenditures for incentives covered by other funding sources as summarized in Figure 1 in Appendix B.

#### **SNAP Market Match**

- Statewide amount of Basic Food Incentives redeemed in farmers markets: \$4,060,339
- Statewide redemption rate of Basic Food Incentives in farmers markets: 88%
- Number of program participants in the most recent available year (2022): 20,488

#### **SNAP Produce Match**

- Statewide amount of Basic Food Incentives redeemed in all participating grocery stores: \$5,759,122
- Statewide redemption rate for Basic Food Incentives in grocery stores: 18%
- Number of program participants: 57,000 per year (estimate)

### Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions<sup>3</sup>

July - December 2019

- Statewide amount of Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions redeemed: \$220,548
- Statewide redemption rate of Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions: 92%
- Number of program participants: 3,519

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In 2019, Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions were distributed to only SNAP/Basic Food participants because FINI funding limited who could receive the benefit. This subprogram changed significantly in January 2020, when the Department changed the subprogram to align with (2019) SHB 1587 so that patients who experience food insecurity but may not receive Basic Food benefits, are eligible to receive Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions. Additionally, beginning in January 2020, the benefit amount became standardized to \$250 over a six-month period for program participants. Therefore, the July – December 2019 and January 2020 – December 2023 data are presented separately.

January 2020 – June 2023

- Statewide amount of Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions redeemed: \$1,265,008
- Statewide redemption rate of Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions: 71%
- Number of program participants: 2,000 per year (estimate)

Table 2 in the appendix shows how many incentives were redeemed by participants by county for each subprogram in 2022, the most recent year with complete county-level data.

#### **FVIP Outcomes**

#### SNAP Market Match and SNAP Produce Match

In June 2021, the department launched an online survey for participants aged 18 years and older who use SNAP Market Match and SNAP Produce Match programs. The survey is an annual requirement as part of the GusNIP grant. Survey participants were recruited through a mailer to households who used SNAP in June 2021 in select areas of Washington state. 4,190 people completed the survey. Key findings from the survey are shared below. Demographic information for survey respondents is presented in Table 3 of Appendix B. A 2022 survey was also conducted, but final data is not yet available.

#### — Key Findings

- Respondents who used Basic Food Incentives programs for more than 6 months reported higher fruit intake (1.11 cup equivalents daily) and higher vegetable intake (1.87 cup equivalents daily), compared to the reported average fruit intake (.96 cup equivalents daily) and vegetable intake (1.57 cup equivalents daily) among U.S. adults. These results align with prior research that demonstrates that an increase in fruit and vegetable intake have a positive impact on health.<sup>4</sup>
- Most respondents (63%) agreed their household had more money to spend on food because of Basic Food Incentives. Despite this, most respondents (74%) still reported experiencing some level of food insecurity.
- Most respondents (59%) reported that the COVID-19 pandemic made it hard to
  purchase fruits and vegetables. This is likely due to inflation of grocery prices during the
  pandemic; a <u>February 2023 study</u> found that food insecure households were more likely
  to change what they ate (i.e. less fruits and vegetables) to cope with food price
  increases.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bellavia, A., Larsson, S.C., Bottai, M., et al. Fruit and vegetable consumption and all-cause mortality: A dose-response analysis. The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 2013;98(2):454-9.

• Of those who used Basic Food Incentives for more than 1 year, 73% had a positive experience with the programs.

#### — Economic Impact

From July 2019 – June 2023, SNAP Market Match and SNAP Grocery Match contributed an estimated \$17,675,030 to Washington's economy.<sup>2</sup> This number represents the amount of money generated from Basic Food Incentives redeemed at participating grocery stores and with farmers in participating and the recirculation of these funds in Washington.<sup>3</sup>

Farmers Market Basic Food Incentives: \$7,308,610

• Grocery Store Basic Food Incentives: \$10,366,420

#### **Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions**

Health care and public health partners use enrollment and exit questionnaires for Fruit and Vegetable Prescription participants. The questionnaire gathers information about food security, food behaviors, demographics, and program satisfaction. Demographic information for participants is presented in Table 4 of Appendix B. 537 participants completed both enrollment and exit questionnaires in 2021. Key findings from the questionnaires are shared below.

#### **Key Findings**

- 12% of participants who reported being food insecure when they started the program, reported being food secure by the time they left the program.
- 51% of participants who reported poor health when they started the program reported an improvement in their health status by the time they exited the program.
- 95% of participants reported a very good or good experience with the program.
- 20% of the program participants reported that they ate more fruits or vegetables by the time they exited the program.

Qualitative feedback from the exit questionnaire demonstrates participant perception of Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions.

"It has helped me tremendously. Honestly, I feel like it's saving my life. My doctor told me I would be diabetic but I am not because I am losing weight and eating healthy!"

"This program helps me feel independent that I can go out and get some fruits and vegetables. It helps me to not struggle as much with eating properly, which has been difficult in the past when money is tight. This facilitates healthy eating."

"Receiving the voucher was the best thing since we had no job due to COVID-19 and this was a great way to keep food on our table."

## **Recommendations**

#### 1. The Legislature should maintain current FVIP funding levels.

FVIP was allocated \$9 million for the 2023 – 2025 biennium, of which \$3 million is ongoing funds. With the funding, DOH will:

- Provide Farmers Market and Grocery Store Basic Food Incentives to SNAP participants in partnership with at least 384 farmers markets, farm stands, farmers, and grocery stores (53 more participating retail locations compared the 2021 2023 locations).
- Double the number of Fruit and Vegetable Prescription participants from 2,000 to 4,000 per year.
- Transition Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions from a paper voucher to a card to improve participant use and program efficiency.

To maintain the same service levels as the 2023 – 2025 biennium, the department recommends maintaining \$9 million in ongoing funds for future biennia. Maintaining this funding level will be essential in ensuring services are not reduced. A robust state funding investment in FVIP also encourages stakeholders like farmers markets, farmers, and grocery stores, to continue investing time and effort into the program. Additionally, robust funding for FVIP can help the state meet GusNIP grant cost share requirements and improve the likelihood Washington will continue to secure this highly competitive grant in the future.

The funding level for the 2023 - 2025 of \$9 million is an appropriate baseline to support and expand the three-subprograms through future biennia.

- **2. FVIP should continue to identify funds to integrate Basic Food Incentives onto the Basic Food account, including ongoing maintenance costs.** Currently, paper currency and coupons are used for the Farmers Market and Grocery Store Basic Food Incentives. Moving Basic Food Incentives onto the Basic Food account will:
  - Reduce stigma for program participants.
  - Increase program efficiency by eliminating the need for paper coupons.
  - Improve data collection and reduce administrative burden for farmers markets and grocery stores.

However, there are an additional 300-plus retail locations that offer Basic Food Incentives that rely on paper coupons. Additional funding sources will be needed if all 300-plus retail locations will offer Basic Food Incentives that are integrated onto the Basic Food account.

3. FVP must continue work with HCA to integrate Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions into the health care payment system. Washington is using the Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration

Waiver to address health disparities and rising health care costs among Medicaid beneficiaries. HCA recently renewed a Section 1115 Waiver that addresses health-related social needs, including medically tailored food assistance like fruit and vegetable prescriptions. The department is working closely with HCA to integrate Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions into waiver implementation. Leveraging the Section 1115 Waiver to offer Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions could make these benefits more widely available to Washingtonians struggling with food insecurity.

- **4. FVP must increase the number of access points offering Basic Food Incentives in traditionally underserved communities.** The department is recruiting more farmers markets and grocers to develop onboarding pathways for farmers who sell directly to consumers through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares or on-farm farm stands.
- **5. FVIP must work with retail partners and the Community Advisory Network to identify and remove program barriers.** The department will deepen engagement with retail partners and the Community Advisory Network to make accessing Basic Food Incentives easier. Since its establishment in 2021, the Community Advisory Network has been integral in providing input and feedback on future program development. The department should explore pathways to increase community engagement, share decision making, and collaborate with food retailers, including grocery stores and farm-direct channels, to improve online ordering and delivery system options. To address barriers around EBT integration, the department should provide continuous technical assistance to retailers, especially those with limited budgets and capacity.
- **6. FVIP must identify and implement innovative promotion strategies to reach underserved communities.** The department should prioritize program recognition both between FVIP subprograms and the anticipated changes due to moving Basic Food Incentives onto the Basic Food account/card. The department is working with DSHS's SNAP-Ed program to develop tailored outreach and communication to underserved communities such as those with a high proportion using Basic Food, populations most impacted by food insecurity, and rural areas. By leveraging partnership with SNAP-Ed, the department will expand program recognition efforts and support community-based outreach and marketing. The department is also exploring options for text-based promotion services.
- **7. FVIP must improve its data collection systems.** The department will continue to seek ways to evaluate, update, and improve data collection and reporting systems. The department should continue to work across the agency's information technology programs to assess evaluation tools, ensuring timely and accurate reporting for FVIP and data-based decision making. The department should continue efforts to show the measurable impact of FVIP for underserved communities.

## Conclusion

Eating fruits and vegetables every day is an important way for people to improve their health, however, only 1 in 10 US adults eat enough fruits and vegetables each day. Viii Fruit and Vegetable Incentives Programs are evidence-based public health strategies that states can use to improve consumption of fruits and vegetables. The programs improve affordability and access to healthier food for Washington's low-income communities. Additionally, they also increase market demand for fruits and vegetables and increase sales for local farmers and other vendors, boosting Washington's economy.

Since 2019, when the program started in Washington, FVIP has succeeded in increasing access to healthy foods as well as benefiting the state's economy. FVIP provided \$11,305,017 of incentives to Washingtonians from July 2019 – June 2023.

FVIP is a lifeline for those experiencing food insecurity. With pandemic era boosts for programs ending combined with rising food prices, FVIP needs additional ongoing investment to sustain programming and meet increased need to ensure the program is accessible and can reach more underserved and underrepresented populations. To maintain the same service levels as the 2023 – 2025 biennium, the department recommends maintaining \$9 million in ongoing funds for future biennia and investing in improvements to the FVIP program to ultimately increase access and improve Washington's health.



## References

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- iv. <u>Low-income Washington state households still struggling with food insecurity as pandemic protections end | UW School of Public Health</u>
- v. <u>Fruit and Vegetable Intake and Mortality: Results from Two Prospective Cohort Studies</u> of US Men and Women and a Meta-Analysis of 26 Cohort Studies - PMC (nih.gov)
- vi. CMS Approves WA's 1115 Waiver with Health-Related Social Needs & Justice-Involved Initiatives Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
- vii. WA State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2019-2021
- viii. CDC Priority Nutrition Strategy: Fruit and Vegetable Voucher Incentives and Produce Prescriptions

# **Appendices**

Appendix A: (2019) Substitute House Bill 1587

By December 1, 2023 the department must submit a complete program evaluation describing the program's effectiveness and including any additional recommendations for program improvements.

Figure 1. Timeline of Funding Support for Fruit and Vegetable Incentives in Washington State

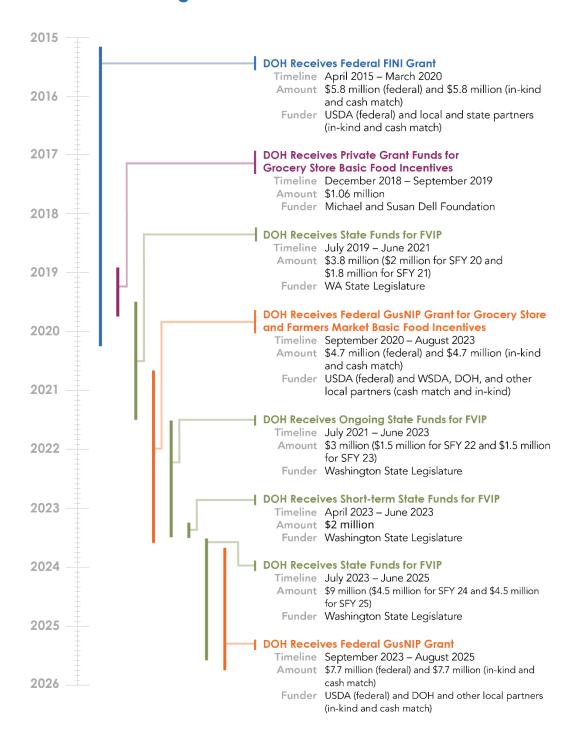


Figure 2. Washington Counties with Fruit and Vegetable Incentives Subprograms, as of June 2023



Table 2. Fruit and Vegetable Incentives Redeemed by Program Participants by County, January – December 2022

County	Total Amount of Fruit and Vegetable Incentives Redeemed	Total Amount of SNAP Market Match Redeemed at Participating Farmers Markets / Farm Stands	Total Amount of SNAP Produce Match Redeemed at Participating Grocery Stores	Total Amount of Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions Redeemed
Adams	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Asotin	\$409	\$409	\$0	\$0
Benton	\$16,669	\$3,419	\$8,870	\$4,380
Chelan	\$16,993	\$12,033	\$4,960	\$0
Clallam	\$62,947	\$29,752	\$33,105	\$90
Clark	\$218,435	\$131,943	\$72,944	\$13,548
Columbia	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cowlitz	\$56,142	\$23,862	\$29,620	\$2,660
Douglas	\$4,710	\$0	\$4,680	\$30
Ferry	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Franklin	\$18,502	\$6,427	\$12,075	\$0
Garfield	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grant	\$19,845	\$0	\$18,555	\$1,290
Grays Harbor	\$38,521	\$6,016	\$25,105	\$7,400
Island	\$29,941	\$10,041	\$18,750	\$1,150
Jefferson	\$63,420	\$39,280	\$23,800	\$340
King	\$1,423,879	\$567,522	\$749,317	\$107,040
Kitsap	\$87,143	\$30,200	\$53,223	\$3,720
Kittitas	\$25,562	\$13,152	\$12,300	\$110
Klickitat	\$1,697	\$1,697	\$0	\$0
Lewis	\$56,074	\$11,594	\$43,400	\$1,080

Lincoln	\$4,115	\$0	\$3,885	\$230
Mason	\$17,220	\$2,905	\$14,225	\$90
Okanogan	\$17,091	\$9,686	\$7,405	\$0
Pacific	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pend Oreille	\$8,765	\$840	\$7,845	\$80
Pierce	\$238,411	\$72,038	\$150,413	\$15,960
San Juan	\$2,706	\$2,706	\$0	\$0
Skagit	\$63,918	\$34,521	\$27,547	\$1,850
Skamania	\$1	\$1	\$0	\$0
Snohomish	\$223,722	\$57,542	\$121,310	\$44,870
Spokane	\$178,262	\$85,162	\$71,420	\$21,680
Stevens	\$33,488	\$23,038	\$10,440	\$10
Thurston	\$267,456	\$177,956	\$78,970	\$10,530
Wahkiakum	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Walla Walla	\$29,759	\$5,259	\$15,310	\$9,190
Whatcom	\$129,184	\$95,594	\$33,330	\$260
Whitman	\$6,579	\$1,554	\$4,755	\$270
Yakima	\$249,967	\$14,252	\$118,265	\$117,450
Idaho, Oregon	\$43,360	\$0	\$43,360	\$0
State Total	\$3,654,891	\$1,470,401	\$1,819,182	\$365,308

Table 3. Demographic information for respondents of the Basic Food Incentives survey (n = 4,190)

Age	Percent
18 – 20	2%
21 - 30	36%
31-40	45%
41-50	12%
51-60	2%
61+	2%
Gender	Percent
Female	51%
Male	47%
Non-binary/third gender	1%
Prefer not to answer	1%

Race/ Ethnicity	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	5%
Asian	4%
Black or African American	26%
Native Hawaiian	2%
Pacific Islander	2%
White	57%
Don't know/not sure	0%
Prefer not to answer	3%
Hispanic, Latino/a or Spanish Origin	Percent
Yes	24%
No	72%
Prefer not to answer	4%

Table 4. Demographic information for respondents of the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription enrollment and exit questionnaires (n = 537)

Race/ Ethnicity	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	5%
Asian	4%
Black or African American	14%
Native Hawaiian	0%
Other Pacific Islander	2%
White	45%
Some other race	29%

35% of respondents were of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin.

75% of the respondents were 40-70 years old.

