

# Food Policy Council

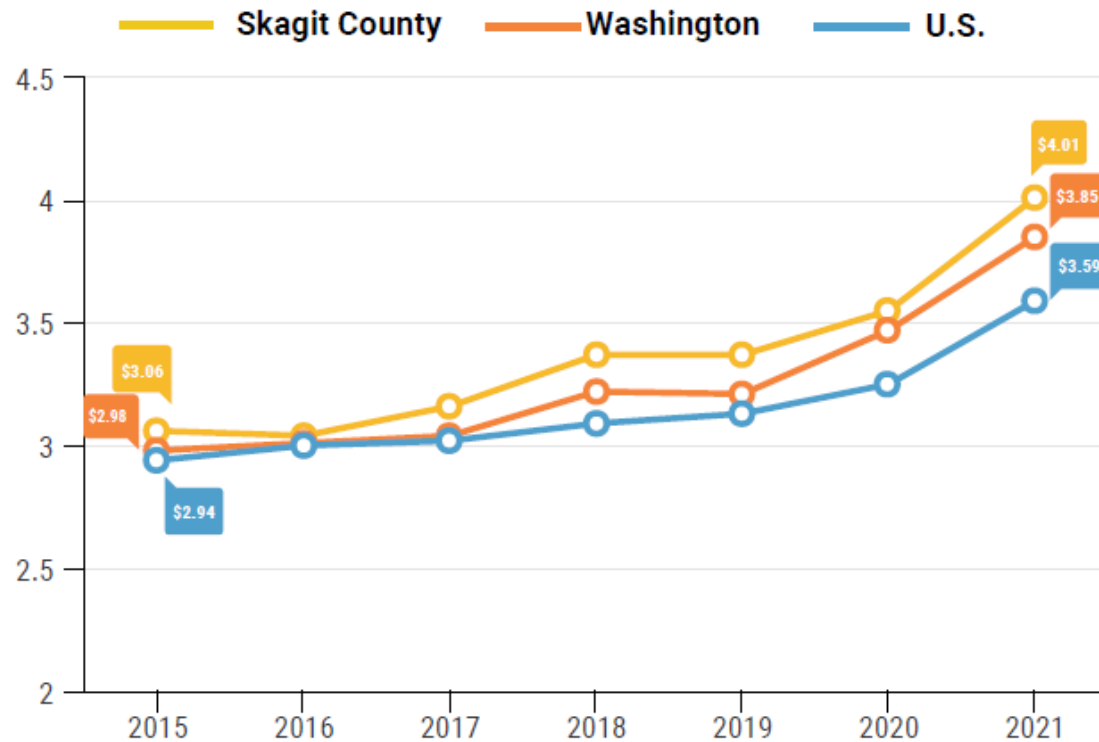
8-month update



# Food Security in Skagit

11% of residents

16% children <18 years are experiencing food insecurity



In 2021, Skagit County residents who identified as **Hispanic or Latino** were more likely to report being food insecure compared to those who identified as **White or African American**.



# Workgroup Process

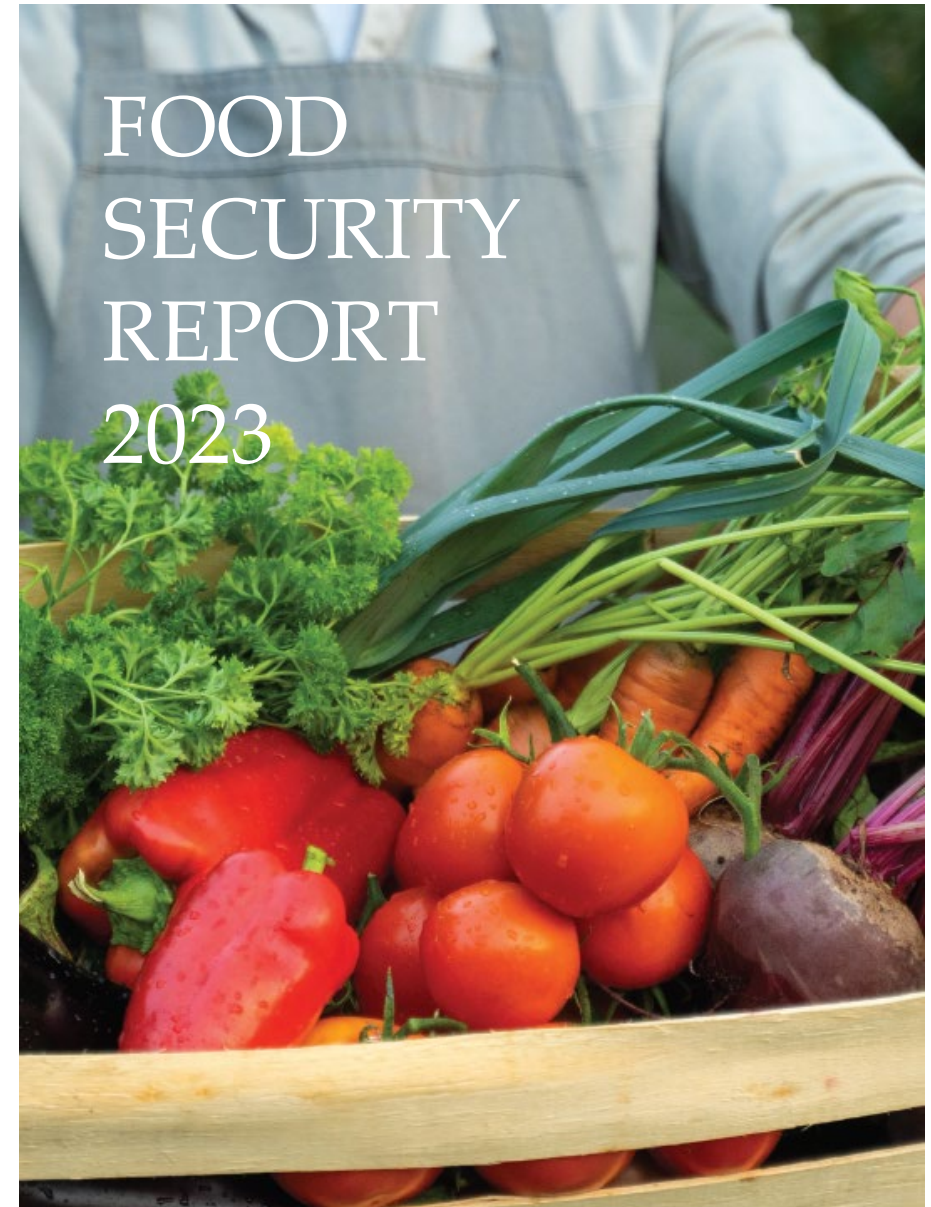
- Data collection
- Assets and gaps analysis
- Resources mapping
- Development of a CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan)





**Vision:**

Skagit County has a resilient local food system that provides equitable access to nutritious, sustainable, and culturally appropriate food for all.






**FARMING,  
PRODUCTION, AND  
PROCESSING**



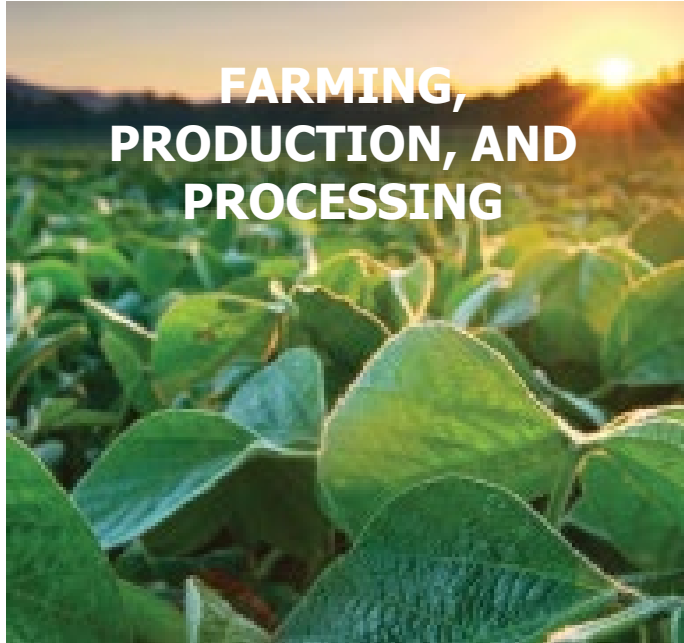
**STORAGE AND  
DISTRIBUTION**



**RESOURCES,  
PROGRAMS,  
AND EDUCATION**



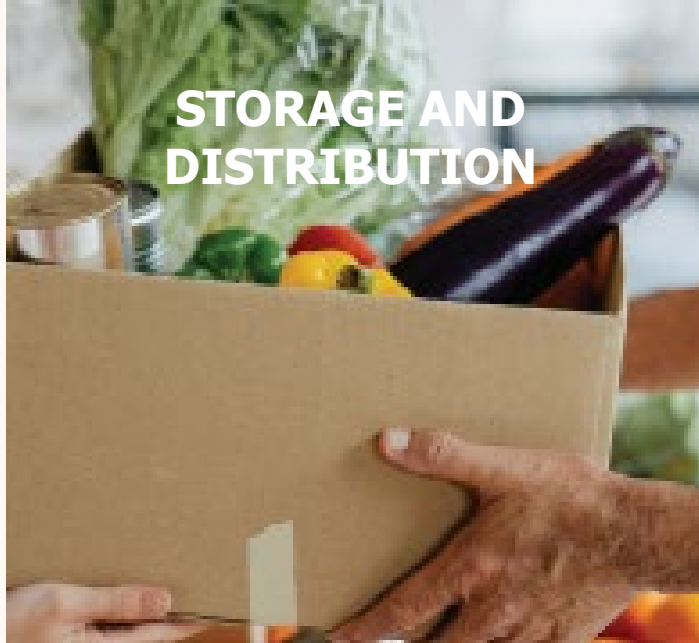
**FOOD SURPLUS  
AND WASTE,**



**Madeline McGonagle,**  
Skagit Food Distribution Center

- WeFeedWa Grant to support collective purchasing in Skagit
- Pre-season agreements with growers from Viva Farms
- Better management of inventory and waste reduction
- Pantries have access to nutritious food while supporting local producers





**Michael Marques,**  
Skagit Valley Food Co-op

- Skagit Valley Food Co-op is committed to increasing food access
- Partnership with Helping Hands to purchase bulk goods
- Reduction in hot food waste due to partnership with Skagit Gleaners
- Final stages to become a WIC authorized retailer





**Resources,  
Programs and  
Education**

**Lani Miller,**  
Skagit County Public Health

- Importance of resource navigators in connecting people to support
- Partnership with Community Action and Help Me Grow
- In-person gatherings to promote networking and resource sharing
- Committed to a quarterly gatherings and continued collaboration to ensure resource sharing







**Jennifer Bryan-Goforth,**  
WSU Extension

- Food preservation important for stretching limited budgets and reducing waste
- Partnership with Skagit Gleaners on a food preservation series and lending library
- Twelve, hybrid workshops this year
- Resources and equipment available to members- expanded access and capacity



# Future Work

- Continuation of partnership building to expand collective purchasing among institutions
- Utilization of GIS mapping of food access sites to inform areas of greatest need in our community
- Creation of materials or channels to simplify food access resources in the community
- Collaboration with emergency management to develop a plan for food distribution in times of crisis
- Exploration of best practices and policies to promote strong, local food systems



**Thank you for your time and support!**

Kas Church

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**POPULATION  
HEALTH TRUST**  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE