



## **Population Health Trust March Newsletter**

### ***Community Advisory Board to the Skagit County Board of Health***

**March 2025**

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It has been a few months since we last shared an update on the Food Policy Council (FPC), so this month's newsletter is an overview of what we have been up to. Before sharing highlights from our current work, it is important to share that things are really hard for many of our food system partners right now. Budget cuts, funding pauses, and reallocations of dollars have left many unsure of how they will continue to meet the needs of our community. While we hope that some of these changes will be temporary, others may be permanent.

Some of the programs most impacted by recent funding changes are those that we want to see more of in our community. Programs like Farm to School, the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program (FVRx), Viva Farms, and local purchasing dollars for school districts. These initiatives were recognized early on by the FPC as models for building a stronger local food system.

Though times are tough, our partners remain steadfast in their commitment to serving our community. The FPC is looking for other sources of funding and trying to think creatively about how to can support one another's work even in these difficult times.



### **Education and Awareness Campaign**

Members collaborated on a series of social media messages designed to raise awareness about the challenge of food insecurity and educate the public about how they can support a stronger food system.

In addition to including data regarding food insecurity, the posts will provide information about supportive resources, highlight important work happening in the local food system, and offer ways that individuals can help increase food access in their communities.

### **Food Resource Brochure**

Various resources are available to those experiencing food insecurity, but navigating them can be a challenge. FPC members saw a need for a simple handout that would include information about foundational food supports, like SNAP and WIC, free/reduced school meals, Meals on Wheels, and food pantries. The brochure is meant to be a starting point for individuals, intended to help them get a better idea of the various resources they may be eligible for and how to access them.



### **Support for National Food Waste Prevention Week**

Several FPC members have joined Washington State University (WSU) in local programming and promotion of [National Food Waste Prevention Week](#) from April 7-13. As part of the campaign, an event at the Museum of Northwest Art (MONA), [Sculpting Sustainability](#), will feature a panel of local experts on food waste prevention.

Food waste prevention is an important component of the Food Security Plan. Education in preventing food waste can help families maximize limited food

budgets and preserve higher-value foods like produce. Reducing our waste makes us better stewards of the resources used to produce the foods we eat.

These are just a few of the projects the FPC has been working on this year. What is hard to capture in a summary are all the ways that members have supported one another's work. One of the greatest takeaways for FPC members has been the opportunity to be in the same space with others committed to building a better food system.

The work is hard, and it will take time to achieve many of the goals and strategies we identified in our plan, but by working together, we can build a more *resilient local food system that provides equitable access to nutritious, sustainable, and culturally appropriate food for all.*

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Thank you for your partnership in keeping Skagit County healthy!



The Population Health Trust was founded in 2015 and is the Community Advisory Board to the Skagit County Board of Health. For more information, check out our [website](#).

**[Population Health Trust](#)**

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