



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



EMERGENCY  
**FOOD**  
NETWORK

...so that no person  
goes hungry.

## A Message from Our Leaders

On behalf of the Emergency Food Network staff and Board of Directors, we thank you for supporting EFN in 2025. We started the year with a bold goal of distributing 20 million pounds of food. None of us could have imagined the challenges that would arise during the year in our pursuit of that goal.

Federal funding freezes caused confusion and interrupted services across the nonprofit sector. For EFN, these freezes meant the sudden loss of 19 partial truckloads of food and the cancellation of a federal program that provides us with funding to purchase produce from local farmers.



Food pantry visits escalated steadily throughout the year, but the government shutdown in October and November sent even more neighbors to our partners. As families dealt with lost wages and delayed SNAP benefits, we were moved by the incredible number of donations and food drives that helped us during such a historic moment.

Throughout the setbacks and challenges of the year, in 2025 we also saw the best of Pierce County. We were amazed by the consistent generosity of our community as people donated funds, hosted food drives, and volunteered.

The stories and statistics in this Annual Report were made possible because of you. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to the belief that all of us deserve healthy and nutritious food.

In gratitude,

*Michelle Douglas*

Michelle Douglas  
Chief Executive Officer

*Ingrid Gourley Mungia*

Ingrid Gourley Mungia  
Board Chair

## Our Mission

The mission of Emergency Food Network is, **“To provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse, and nutritious food supply so that no person goes hungry.”**

## We Lead With Our Values:

- Teamwork
- Family
- Serving Others
- Learning and Teaching
- Service
- Justice
- Community Building
- Rooting for the Underdog

## 2025 EFN Impacts



3.7 Million  
Visits to our partner  
food pantries across  
Pierce County.



18.3 Million  
Pounds of food  
distributed by  
EFN.



75+  
Food pantry  
partners in Pierce  
County.



3.1 Million  
Pounds of food  
purchased by  
EFN.



700  
Households served  
monthly through  
the Home Delivery  
Program.



484,154  
Pounds of food  
delivered through  
EFN's Home Delivery  
Program annually.



\$2.1 Million  
Provided in pass-  
through funds to  
our partners.



6,000  
Break Bags provided  
to Tacoma and  
Lakewood youth  
during holiday breaks.

# What We Do

## General Distribution

### Donated and Commodity Foods

Most of the food that EFN distributes each year is sourced through donations and federal commodity food programs. EFN procured 11.5 million pounds of donated food from grocery stores, farmers, food drives and other distribution partners in 2025. All our Partner Programs are eligible for these donations, providing their programs with a wide variety of products for their visitors.

EFN is also the lead contractor for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provides healthy foods to our TEFAP sites. TEFAP provided our network with nearly 3.4 million pounds of food in 2025, but the program has been steadily declining in pounds over recent years.

### Pass-Through Funding and Compliance Support

In addition to providing our partners with food, EFN provides our network with pass-through funding and compliance support. We manage federal, state, and local government contracts that provide operating funds to our partners for expenses like food purchasing, staffing, rent, and utilities. EFN manages a single contract with the funder and then oversees 50+ subcontracts with our partners. EFN managed \$2 million worth of pass-through funds in 2025.

We offer our partners extensive compliance support, helping them maintain legally required licenses and food safety protocols. This assistance provides invaluable guidance to our partners and, most importantly, ensures food programs follow safety standards that create a safe environment for guests.



## 2025 Food Distribution

- Donated: 64%  
11,584,119 lbs
- Government Commodities: 19%  
3,495,972 lbs
- Purchased: 17%  
3,137,151 lbs

## Co-op Food Purchasing Program

Started in 2010, the Co-op Food Purchasing Program (Co-op) is EFN's bulk food buying program. Purchasing food at large-scale is foundational to EFN's ability to provide our partners with a consistent supply of nutritious food. Co-op purchases include a variety of products like canned fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, rice, oats, pasta, and shelf-stable meals and proteins.

Through a partnership with Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, a dietitian reviews Co-op purchases to ensure that they are supportive of chronic health conditions like heart disease and diabetes. EFN prioritizes foods that are low in fat, sodium, and sugar in order to adhere to our nutritional standards.

Since 2021, Co-op purchases have also included fresh produce from Washington farmers, increasing the availability of fruits and vegetables within Pierce County's emergency food system. **In 2025, EFN spent \$2 million on purchased Co-op food to distribute 2.7 million pounds of food.**

## Home Delivery

The Home Delivery Program was started in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Many families face significant barriers to visiting a food pantry due to medical conditions, mobility challenges, and limited transportation.

Each month, EFN delivers food to 700 households across the county to reach families who may not otherwise be able to visit a food pantry. Deliveries consist of shelf-stable foods, produce, milk, eggs, and frozen protein.

The Home Delivery Program serves seniors through the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and individuals with chronic health conditions like hypertension, heart failure, and diabetes through a Medically Tailored Meals Program in partnership with Virginia Mason Franciscan Health. Through these strategies, we provide nutritionally appropriate food to low-income individuals to help with managing their health.

**In 2025, EFN served an average of 700 households per month through our Home Delivery Program, providing them with 484,154 pounds of food annually.**

## Break Bags

EFN's Break Bags Program was started in 2015 in partnership with St. Leos Food Connection and the Clover Park School District. The aim of the Break Bags Program is to reduce hunger over extended breaks by providing students with a bag of food to supplement the meals they normally receive at school. **Each fall, winter, and spring break, EFN distributes 2,000 bags to students in Tacoma and Lakewood.**

Break Bags contain a mixture of kid-friendly foods like peanut butter, applesauce, and trail mix that do not need to be cooked as well as ingredients like rice, oats, canned tuna, and canned vegetables that can be used to prepare a meal. Each Break Bag contains about 10 meals' worth of food.

**In Pierce County, 69,466 students receive free or reduced-cost meals, nearly 51% of students.**

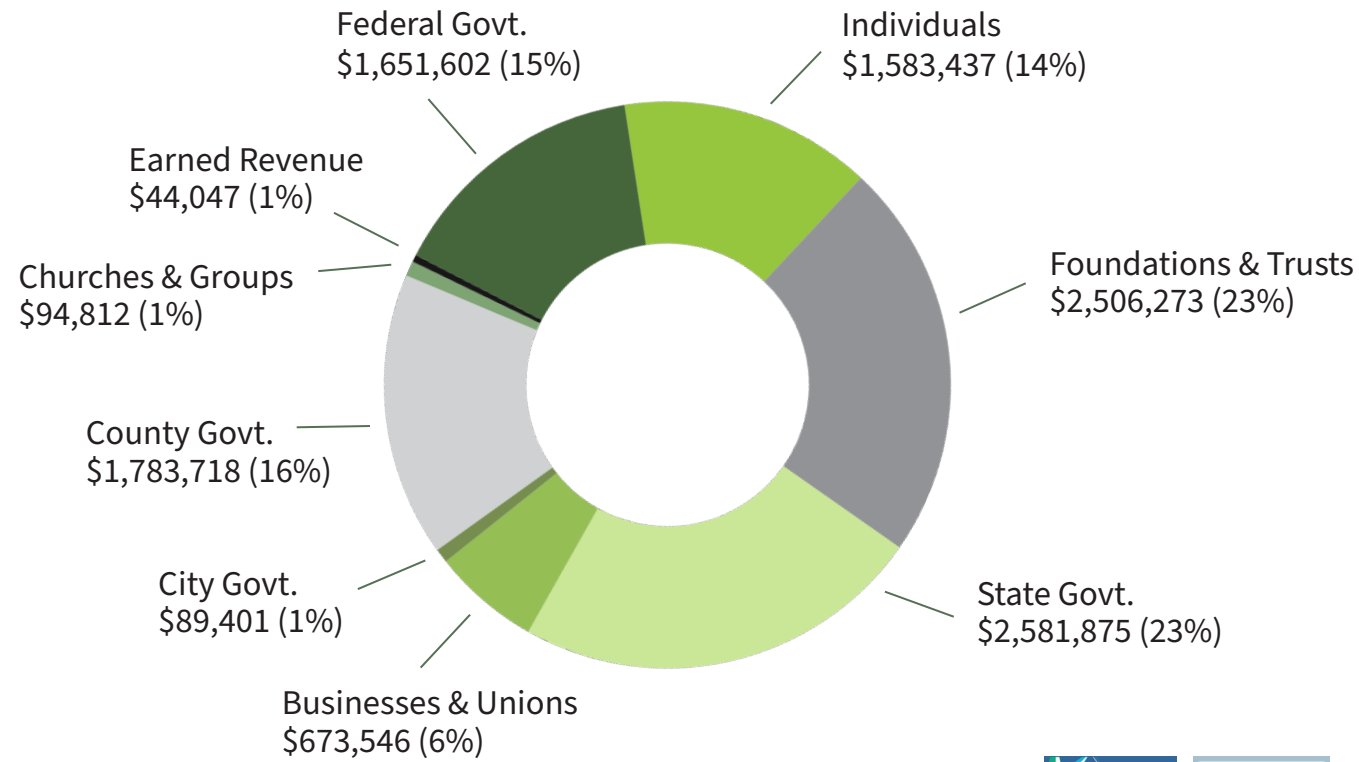
For these students, school may be the only place where they know they will always have access to meals. Our Break Bags help ensure that some of the region's most food-insecure students have an additional food source over breaks when these meals become unavailable.



**EFN distributes over 1 million pounds of food every month to 75+ food pantries, meal sites, and shelters across Pierce County.**

# How We Do It

## 2025 Funding Sources



\$11 Million

Total Revenue in 2025

\$26.7 Million

Total Value of Food Contributions

Full financials are available at [efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org).



EFN has been awarded a 4-Star Rating by Charity Navigator and Platinum Certification on Candid.

# Who We Serve

## Partner Programs

EFN partners with more than 75 food pantries, meal sites, and shelters in Pierce County, referred to as Partner Programs. With a commitment to dignity and care, these dedicated partners ensure essential food access across the county's rural and urban communities.

### Program Partner Spotlight: Tillicum Woodbrook Community Center

Serving the Tillicum area just past the gates of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tillicum Woodbrook Community Center's food pantry is an essential lifeline for many in the area. EFN supplies more than half of the pantry's food, helping to ensure the Center remains a source of stability and support for its neighbors during uncertain times.

"When we opened the pantry back in 2000, we were serving about 400 households per month. Now we're at about 1,000," said The Center's Executive Director Jesse Black. "Food insecurity affects more people than you think. We see lots of working families. Lots of people who work full-time and are still struggling," he added.



Jesse Black, Executive Director of the Tillicum Woodbrook Community Center

In October 2025, the crisis ballooned as the government shutdown hit and worry spread about SNAP benefit cuts. The Center's pantry visits nearly doubled. "We had a lot of military families come in, a lot of people who were stressed and scared. I remember one woman with four kids who had her SNAP benefits cut off. She was asking, 'How am I going to feed my family?' I told her, 'Take what you need. We're here for you.'"

EFN helped the Center take quick action. "Sometimes we would run out of food, or get low on food. EFN always responded immediately. I know I can call them anytime, let them know what I need, and they'll make it happen." For the Tillicum community, this pantry isn't just about food. It's a place where neighbors can breathe a little easier, and where support is given when it's needed most.

**“ It would be really, really hard to serve this community without EFN. ”**

- Jesse Black, Executive Director, Tillicum Woodbrook Community Center



# Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to EFN's ability to serve our community. Without their support, distributing more than 1 million pounds of food each month to food pantries across Pierce County would not be possible.



## REPACK PROJECT

EFN saves thousands of dollars every year purchasing staples like oats, pasta, and rice in bulk. Repack volunteers break down these products into family-sized bags that are then distributed to our partner food pantries.

This process not only saves EFN on product cost, but also the labor needed to make this food ready for families in need.

## FOOD & FUND DRIVES

Individual and community Food & Fund Drives raise awareness of hunger while collecting donations that help keep food pantry shelves stocked throughout the year. These drives also provide variety to the bulk staples food pantries receive.

## HOME DELIVERY PROGRAM

Home Delivery volunteer drivers play a critical role in supporting neighbors who are unable to visit a food pantry, due to barriers such as mobility or transportation challenges.

These volunteers bring food directly to these neighbors' doors and extend EFN's reach to rural areas across Pierce County.

# 2025 Volunteer Impacts

In 2025, volunteers contributed hours equivalent to 6 full-time EFN employees.



2,096

Total volunteers



12,917

Total hours volunteered



282,744

Total meals provided through food & fund drives



1.1 million

Pounds of food sorted & repackaged

“

*I grow to know the families on my route and as I deliver there repeatedly, I have developed special knocks on the door for several of them. There is a family in Sumner who I use a melodic knock on the door and then the kids rush to open it to treat the box I deliver like it's a Christmas present. Their joy is contagious.*

*I have a new mother on my route as well, and whenever I deliver to her, I just tap on the window. I normally come around during the newborn's sleep time and I want to protect the mother's time as well. Her smile is as contagious as the children's joy. Volunteering in this role gives me gifts with the boxes I deliver.*”

*- Dian Lord, Home Delivery Volunteer Driver for 2+ years across Sumner, Orting, and Bonney Lake*



## Sign Up to Volunteer or Host a Food & Fund Drive:

- Visit our website at [efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org)
- Email us at [volunteer@efoodnet.org](mailto:volunteer@efoodnet.org)
- Call us at 253-584-1040

# EFN Events

For over two decades, EFN events have united Pierce County in the fight against hunger by bringing together community, connection, and fun, all for a meaningful cause. In 2025, more than \$800,000 was raised through EFN events to support neighbors in need.

## 2026 Events



HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH: May 1-31 HUNGER WALK: Saturday, May 2



LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE: Saturday, May 9



ABUNDANCE DINNER & AUCTION: Saturday, Oct. 24



EMPTY BOWLS: Saturday, Dec. 5

Get more details about EFN events at [efoodnet.org/events](https://efoodnet.org/events)

# Ways to Give

## GIVE FUNDS:

For every \$1 donated, EFN can distribute 2 meals to those in need.

## GIVE FOOD:

Food donations help diversify EFN's food supply.

## SUPPER CLUB:

Your monthly donation helps EFN plan for the year and is a convenient way to support our work.

## LEAVE A LEGACY:

Make a bequest or other planned gift to EFN. To learn more, email EFN's Development Director, Claire Aijian at [claire@efoodnet.org](mailto:claire@efoodnet.org).



Donate anytime,  
anywhere!  
[efoodnet.org/donate](https://efoodnet.org/donate)

## Stay Connected

### SOCIAL MEDIA:



@efoodnet



@emergencyfoodnetwork

### EMAIL:

Sign up for EFN emails to get our monthly newsletter, plus updates, event invites, and more ways to get involved. Visit [efoodnet.org](https://efoodnet.org) and subscribe today!





OF TACOMA AND PIERCE COUNTY

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## Ambassador Board

**Members**  
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Thank you Coordinated Care for sponsoring our 2025 Annual Report!



Committed to transforming the health of the community, one person at a time. Coordinated Care is proud to partner with Emergency Food Network in our shared work to make healthy food more accessible.



Learn more about how we're putting the health of Washington first.

