



**Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition
Legislative Agenda
2007-2009 Biennium**

✓ *Expand access to school meals*

Hungry kids can't learn. That's why insuring every student has access to a nutritious breakfast and lunch during the school day and summer months is critical to alleviating childhood hunger AND supporting academic success.

Make school lunch accessible to all students from low-income households: The elimination of the reduced-price co-pay for school lunch would increase access to the school lunch program and ensure that all students have access to a nutritious lunch to fuel their bodies and their minds. **Our ask:** \$10 million for the biennium

The legislature's \$1 million investment in 2006 resulted in a 40% increase in participation in breakfast by children eligible for reduced-price meals. In some districts, the percentage was significantly higher.

✓ *Increase the amount of food available to hungry households*

Washington's continued high rate of food insecurity and hunger points to the high costs of housing, child care, health care and fuel that leave many families struggling to put food on the table. The emergency food system plays a vital role in the fight against hunger, but many food banks and meal programs can't meet the current demand of their communities.

Increase food banks' capacity to feed hungry families: Rising operating costs are making it difficult for food banks to meet the need of their communities. Additional state funds for Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP: state funded program) would enable food banks around the state to provide better services to their clients. **Our ask:** \$1.5 million for the biennium

Fill the critical gap in food resources for food banks and meal programs: There has been a continual decline in food products available through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP: federally funded commodities program) for distribution to food banks and meal programs since 2001. State funds are needed to fill this gap and support the already existing food distribution network. **Our ask:** \$7.9 million for the biennium

The coalition also supports a permanent source of public health funding and increased state funds to expand access to nutritious food in community farmers' markets for low-income families and seniors.