

FOOD WEEK OF ACTION

Join us during the week of Oct 15-22, 2023!



THE PATH TOWARD FOOD JUSTICE - HOW TO BECOME AN ADVOCATE?

When we think of issues around hunger, we are reminded of unjust sharing and distribution of resources, which impair human flourishing. You do not need to be an expert on legislation to advocate. The expertise comes from knowing and understanding the individuals and communities most impacted—who your neighbors are, what they need, what they experience, and why just access to food matters to us all. Do you know who grew and harvested the food on your table today? Where are farm communities in your neighborhood? How are their workers treated? Through advocacy, we challenge the political, environmental, economic conditions and racist structure which underlie hunger and poverty, and we promote food sovereignty.

Here are some action items and resources that you and your communities are encouraged to use!

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCACY WEBINAR

OCTOBER 18TH, 2023 6-7PM



Claire Lane, Director of Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition, Kristin Ang, Policy Engagement Director of Faith Action Network (FAN), and Trevor Sandison, FAN volunteer in Olympia, will update us on anti-hunger legislation agendas. Learn the ways in which we can be advocates for and with food insecure communities of Washington and beyond. The webinar will provide an overview of inequality in the food system and offer policy advocacy action items that help address the root causes of food insecurity and food access disparity. Bring your questions!

**PARTICIPATE
OUR WEBINAR**



Register at bit.ly/FoodWeekofAction
or using the QR code.

TAKE ACTION FOR THE FARM BILL

Federal Legislation
bit.ly/FANFarmBill



The Farm Bill is the largest piece of legislation that funds the country's food and agriculture system. About 80% of the budget goes toward nutrition programs including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps 42 million participants with low incomes each month. Much of the remaining budget goes to supporting farming livelihoods, how we grow and consume food, and what kinds of food are produced. The bill's importance is incontestable, and we must make sure the provisions of the Farm Bill strengthen and do not undercut nutrition programs. It is also crucial to eliminate administrative burdens so that more eligible people, traditionally marginalized, will participate. Urge Congress to expand SNAP access and improve its implementation. Learn more about the Farm Bill.

Funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) is facing an urgent threat. On September 30th, 2023, Congress passed a continuing resolution to fund WIC at current levels for 45 days. Still, Congress must pass an appropriations bill for the next fiscal year to promise sufficient funding to protect WIC's projected participation level. Without additional funding, roughly 11,700 postpartum adults and children of Washington would be turned away. In the wake of rising participation and high food prices, WIC needs to be adequately funded to ensure that families receive the full food benefits. Voice your concerns to your Congress members! Learn more about WIC.



TAKE ACTION FOR WIC NUTRITION PROGRAM

Federal Legislation
bit.ly/FundWIC



SPREAD THE WORD FOR WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT

State Legislation
<https://www.wataxcredit.org/>



The Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) is a tangible way to help food insecure communities and help families to meet their basic needs. In Washington, a tax credit of up to \$1,200 is available for qualified individuals and families. Since WFTC launched in February 2023, only half of the eligible credit has been claimed. Help us spread the word in your community to check their eligibility and apply at WorkingFamiliesCredit.wa.gov. Immigrants are eligible, regardless of status, including farm workers whose immigration status often pose barriers to food assistance. WFTC does not affect other benefits like SNAP and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).



GATHER YOUR COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS, AND PLAN AN ADVOCACY EVENT!



CAMPAIGNS AND RESOURCES



Faith Action Network staff with Jose Martinez, a farm worker activist, who started the movement.



JUSTICE FOR WINDMILL FARMS MUSHROOM WORKERS

United Farm Workers (UFW) leads a campaign to bring justice for mushroom workers at Windmill Farms (formerly Ostrom) based in the Yakima Valley. Mushroom workers of Windmill Farms have been enduring exploitative and discriminatory working conditions. In solidarity with mushroom workers in our state and the UFW, we ask consumers and retailers to stop buying Windmill Farms mushrooms and instead choose union produce. Go to your local supermarket, look at the mushroom label, and ask the store manager to purchase union mushrooms—Monterey Mushrooms or Del Fresh. Sign the pledge through UFW's campaign and tell your local grocery management that you are willing to spend a few more pennies to support farm workers.

WHY FAIR FOOD PROGRAM AND WHY KROGER? <<<

The Fair Food Program was launched in 2011 by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and is a unique model for social responsibility that encompasses partnerships among farmworkers, growers, and retail food companies to ensure dignified wages and humane working conditions. Learn more about its impact here. Kroger has been called out for its exploitation of farm workers in its supply chain, yet, they have neither recognized the problem nor joined the Fair Food Program. With a planned merger with Albertsons, Kroger is set to become the second-largest food retailer controlling nearly a quarter of the entire grocery market in the U.S. Demand Kroger join the Fair Food Program now. And learn more about the other food certification programs and look for their labels.

**CALL ON KROGER
TO JOIN
FAIR FOOD
PROGRAM**

<https://bit.ly/DemandKroger>



OTHER HUNGER RELIEF INITIATIVES



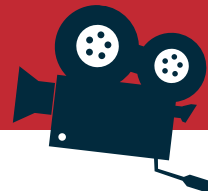
- As Pacific Northwest residents, protect salmon abundance and honor our nation's historical land and food resources by standing in solidarity with Northwest Tribes and signing the letter to the Biden Administration.
- In Washington State, the bills below have passed in the 2023 fiscal year. Ask your neighboring families, children, and youth to make sure they are free of hunger to achieve the bills' better implementation.
 - Free School Meals for More Students - expands the subsidized meal program to about 90,000 more students.
 - Hunger Free College Campus - all students on SNAP can access a Basic Food, Employment, and Training program.
- Shop local! See the list of food hubs, farmer's markets, or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

Here are several documentaries on hunger relief effort and food systems:

- **Hunger communities in Brinnon and Othello, WA** (4mins) documented by WhyHunger.
- **Cooperativa Tierra y Libertad**, a worker-owned cooperative founded by four farmworkers, in Sedro Woolley and Lynden, WA.
- There are many short videos sharing the stories of food and farmers on **Farmer's Footprint**.
- **Farm Workers and Food Justice by National Farm Worker Ministry**. (12 mins): the documentary highlights farm workers in Apopka, Florida.
- Be on the look out for **Food, Inc. 2**, the sequel to the 2008 Oscar nominated and Emmy award winning documentary, coming out soon!



HOST A WATCH PARTY AND DIALOGUE IN YOUR COMMUNITIES!



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



- **Food Justice Dinner "Black Food Sovereignty, Local to Global,"** presented by Community Alliance for Global Justice on Saturday October 14th, 2023, 5-9:30pm PDT. Location: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 2100 Boyer Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112. Purchase your ticket at <https://cagj.org/slee-2023/>.
- Get involved with **Farm Worker Ministry Northwest** for PNW-based advocacy and events.
- Attend a free, virtual **Climate Ambassador Training** on October 28th, 2023 from 9am-1pm PT. The training is organized by ecumenical partnerships. Registration is required. Search "*Blessed Tomorrow Ecumenical Ambassador Training.*"

FAITH ACTION NETWORK PARTNERS WITH PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM AND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA-WITNESS IN SOCIETY TO BRING YOU FOOD WEEK OF ACTION .

