



Hungry Children Need State Food Assistance

Every child needs access to good nutrition in order to learn, grow and thrive. But rising hunger threatens the future of our kids. The number of hungry Washington households has nearly doubled since 2007; one in four families with children send their kids off to class not knowing how they'll feed them when they get home.

Right now, State Food Assistance (SFA) helps prevent hunger for nearly 12,500 children. SFA was created to ensure equal treatment of hungry residents. It provides food stamp "look-alike" benefits to legal immigrants and other lawfully residing Washingtonians.

Eliminating SFA would further disrupt the lives of thousands of children – disproportionately children of color – all across the state. Children of color are already staggering under the effects of the recession: their parents have lower incomes and are more likely to face unemployment.

Stable and successful

SFA is not part of the state's budget problem; its costs have been 43 percent lower than DSHS projected. Providing **full benefits** to families relying on SFA (equal to SNAP benefits) would cost significantly less than the amount DSHS projected for the biennium at current caseload levels.

At a time when hunger has skyrocketed, food stamps have been one key response helping children in every corner of Washington. Eliminating a program that keeps Washington families from starving is no solution to an economic crisis – it's a sure route to greater racial and economic inequality.

Protect State Food Assistance

For more information, contact Jen Estroff, Children's Alliance Government Relations Director, at 509-859-2012 or jen@childrensalliance.org.



State Food Assistance helps thousands of our state's children avoid hunger.

One Family's Story

Lahela Reiher is a mother of eight and a pillar in her community. Lahela is from the Marshall Islands, and like the rest of her countrymen, she came here to escape the devastating effects of U.S. nuclear testing on her homeland. Now that her husband is out of work, Lahela needs State Food Assistance to make sure that she can feed her family.

**Without State Food Assistance
Lehala knows that her family
would go hungry, her children
would suffer and hundreds of
Marshallese families living in
Washington would be
devastated.**