



# The Lummi Food Bank

Lummi Nation

## Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Freedom from Hunger Case Study

“We want to be able to meet the needs of our growing population and provide for generations to come.” – Dewey N. Solomon Jr, Lummi Commodity Foods Certifier

The Lummi Nation is a sovereign nation within the United States, and the third largest tribe in Washington state, serving over 5,000 members. There are nearly 13,000 acres of tidelands on the Lummi Reservation, and for thousands of years, the Lummi have been independent and self-sufficient. The Lummi Nation’s mission is to sustain their way of life. As such, the Lummi Nation continues to invest in tribal economic development and training its members to use the most modern technologies while staying attentive to tribal values. The Lummi Reservation is situated west of Bellingham and south of Ferndale, Washington and operates a food bank and a commodity food department for its members. Learn more at [www.lummi-nsn.gov/](http://www.lummi-nsn.gov/).

### About the Lummi Food Bank

The Lummi Nation has always relied on fishing and seafood harvesting for food. In recent years, demand for emergency food services within the Lummi Nation has been rising, resulting in many new clients at the food bank who had not previously accessed services. As a result, the tribe’s Food Sovereignty Group convened to assess food insecurity for the Lummi Nation and provided information to the Lummi Tribal Council.

With the Lummi Tribal Council’s support, the Lummi Food Bank enhanced its weekly food-related services to low-income individuals, families, and elders who live on or near the Lummi Reservation by partnering with a local food bank and local nonprofit organizations. Today, the Lummi Food Bank distributes a combination of excess food from the local food bank, weekly purchases from grocery stores, and additional food donations from local nonprofit organizations. The Lummi Food Bank is supported by tribal dollars (70%), state funds (20%), and CSBG funds (10%).

### Impact

The Lummi Food Bank serves up to 250 people per week, including both tribal members who live on the reservation, and those who live elsewhere and can show tribal membership. Each week, clients receive canned and dried goods and fresh fruits and vegetables. The food bank aims



### Promising Practices

The Lummi Nation has found mobile delivery for homebound people to be an invaluable service for the community. The program delivers nutritious meals to homebound people who are elderly, ailing, or physically disabled. This service allows recipients to remain in their homes and enhances their quality of life through nutritious meals.

to provide a variety of goods and fresh produce. Once per month, household supplies, such as hygiene and cleaning products, are also provided. The food bank also runs a home delivery service for elderly tribal members who cannot make it to the food bank in person. Future expansion of the project will include live demonstrations to teach people how to use different produce and identify healthier ways of eating and living.

Most outreach is done through flyers, social media, and word of mouth. When a special product with a limited shelf life comes in, like fresh salmon, the Lummi Food Bank can count on the community to get the word out to distribute the limited-time product quickly.

### Identifying and Overcoming Challenges

Limited storage space for food and supplies has been a concern in the past. Fortunately, the food bank has been able to secure additional space in their building, and a second cooler to increase food storage capacity.

### For more information contact:

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