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## Application for the Community Action and Skagit Valley Food Co-op Farm to Food Bank

### **Application Deadline: Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you for applying to the Community Action Farm to Food Bank Program!

This program is designed to support both farmers and food pantries in our community. With support from the Skagit Valley Food Co-op's "Growing Good Fund", Community Action will administer loans to farmers who will pay back those loans in donated food products. Donations will be made to the Community Action Skagit Food Distribution Center in Sedro Woolley, who will distribute them to hunger relief organizations in Skagit County. This initiative strengthens the regional food system by cultivating long-term, mutually beneficial relationships between farms and the emergency food network, increasing both economic stability for producers and food security for families.

Loans will be administered in spring of 2026 and must be repaid in donated produce by December 31, 2031 (5 year term). Donations can happen at any time during the 5 year pay back period. Farmers will be expected to deliver product in new and appropriate packaging along with documentation so the donation can be properly tracked. Documentation will include the date, name of the farm, product, case size/poundage, and price. Used packaging is okay for fruits and vegetables as long as it is in good condition (clean and free of tears/rips that jeopardize the strength of the box). The maximum award amount for 2026 is \$10,000. The donated value of goods will be established at the time of award and will be re-evaluated each year based on wholesale market prices.

Before applying, please read the eligibility criteria below:

- Have at least 2 years of farming experience (2024 or prior)
- Located in Skagit County
- Be able to pay back the loan in donated food products within 5 years
- Priority will be given to farms who need support with equipment and small infrastructure projects to grow and expand their business
- We are looking for a diverse selection of food products through this program. Priority will be given to farms who can provide food products that are needed for the Skagit Food Pantries and provide a clear plan for how their loan will be paid back. Examples include:
  - Produce: Fruit/Vegetables
    - ♣ Produce items we are not prioritizing:
      - Potatoes, onions, squash, and herbs
  - Meat
  - Eggs
  - Dairy

- Be willing to report back at the end of the year on how these funds impacted your farm operation
- Willing to work with hunger relief organizations
- Donations for loan paybacks will be treated as wholesale and priced accordingly. Priority will be given to farms who have experience with, or are interested in expanding to wholesale markets

Please complete this application to the best of your ability. If you are completing this application on paper please drop off or mail to:

Community Action of Skagit County  
 c/o: Skagit Food Distribution Center  
 330 Pacific Place  
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

If you have questions or need assistance with your application, please contact:

Madeline McGonagle  
[madelinem@communityactionskagit.org](mailto:madelinem@communityactionskagit.org)  
 360-410-5023

- Farm name:
- Names of owner(s):
- Mailing address:
  
- Farm physical address:
  
- Name of contact person for this application:  
 Title:  
 Phone number:  
 Can this number receive texts? Y or N  
 Email:
- Number of years the farm has been in operation:
- Number of years the owner(s) have experience farming:
- Number of acres in production:
- Do you have experience selling/distributing to wholesale markets? If so, how many years have you been selling products through wholesale markets?

- Have you sold or donated food products to Community Action before?  
If yes, can you tell us which products? If no, please tell us why you are interested in working with hunger relief organizations.
- What is your preferred language?
- Please explain your farm business and future goals for the farm (500 words max):
  
- Dollar amount requested (up to \$10,000):
- Please explain how this money will support your farm this year. How will you use the loan money to reach your business goals? (500 words max):
  
- Tell us about the products you grow and which products you would plan on donating to pay back your loan (300 words max)? (we are looking for produce (excluding potatoes, onions, squash, and herbs), meat, eggs, dairy)

- How will you ensure you can donate food products to repay this loan in the agreed upon timeframe? Tell us how your production plan will allow you to donate products in the 5-year term (300 words max)
  - \*SFDC staff might ask for a more detailed payback plan if you are selected.

- Please provide any other information you would like us to know

- Please provide 2 professional references:
  - Name and title
  - Number
  - Email
  
  - Name and title
  - Number
  - Email

