



Whatcom County Food Bank Network



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County Funding for WCFBN Food Purchasing

2022:	\$138,000
2023:	\$138,000
2024:	\$138,000
2025:	\$750,000
2026:	\$1,250,000
2027:	?
2028:	?

The \$1,250,000 for food purchasing combined with the Healthy Children's Fund grant totals nearly \$2 million for 2026.

The Whatcom County Food Bank Network seeks level funding for the 2027-28 biennium, in food purchasing and HCF support.

Your support has been invaluable

2021 - 24: Food bank visits tripled - an unprecedented increase - while redistributed food support steadily declined post-COVID.

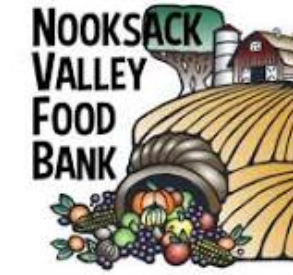
2024: The WCFBN requested \$2 million in annual funding for 2025–26; Council unanimously approved \$750,000.

WCFBN applied for and received Healthy Children’s Fund grant for infant care items

2025: An additional \$500,000 was approved for 2026

2026: WCFBN shoppers represent 25% of Whatcom County residents. The WCFBN seeks level funding for the 2027-28 biennium, for food purchasing and HCF support.

Whatcom County Food Bank Network

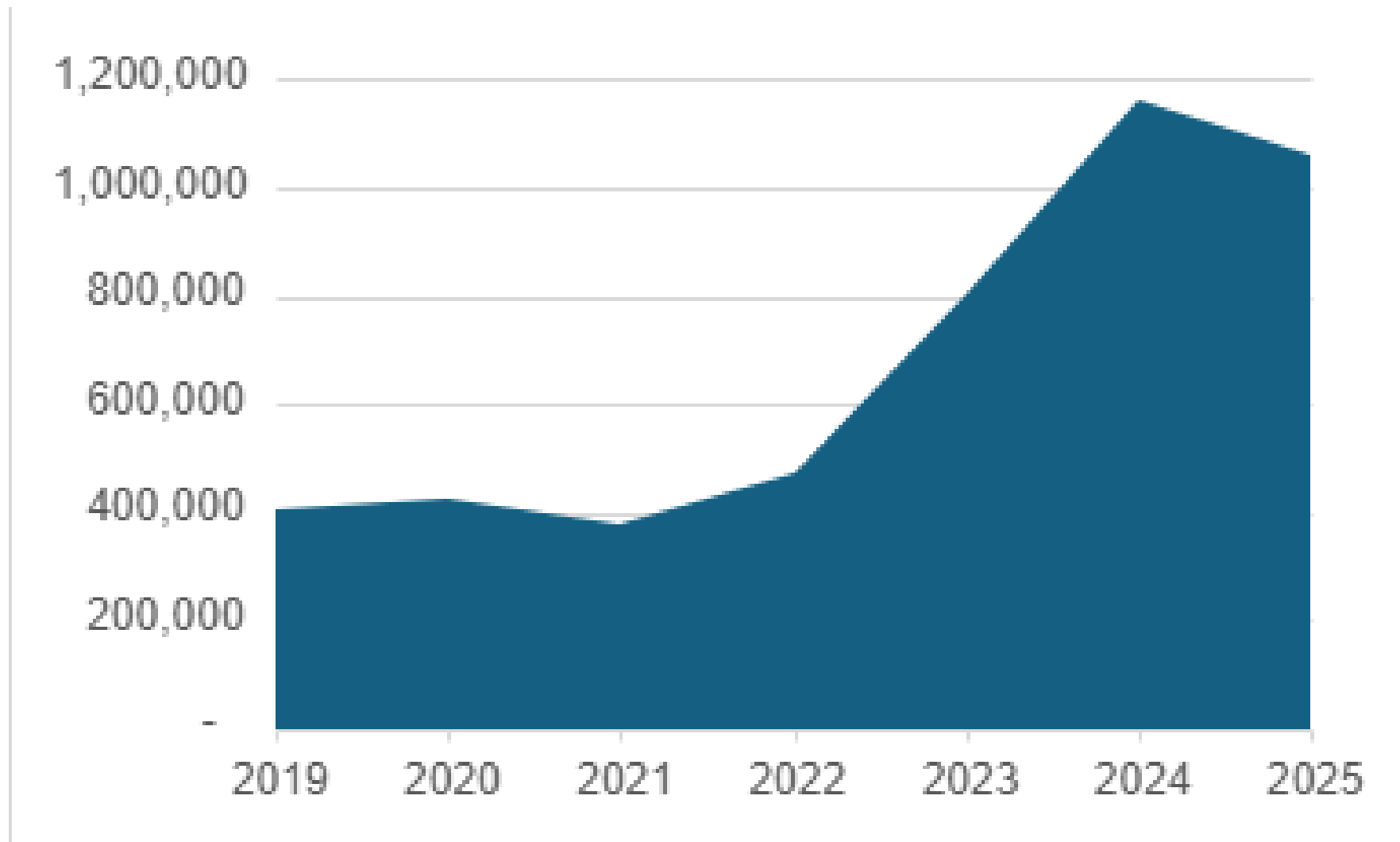


- 📍 Point Roberts Food Bank
- 📍 Bellingham Food Bank
- 📍 Blaine Food Bank
- 📍 Lynden Project Hope
- 📍 CSSNW (Agape) Food Bank
- 📍 Nooksack Valley Food Bank
- 📍 Ferndale Food Bank
- 📍 Nooksack Tribal Food Bank
- 📍 Lummi Food Bank
- 📍 Foothills Food Bank
- 📍 Salvation Army Food Bank

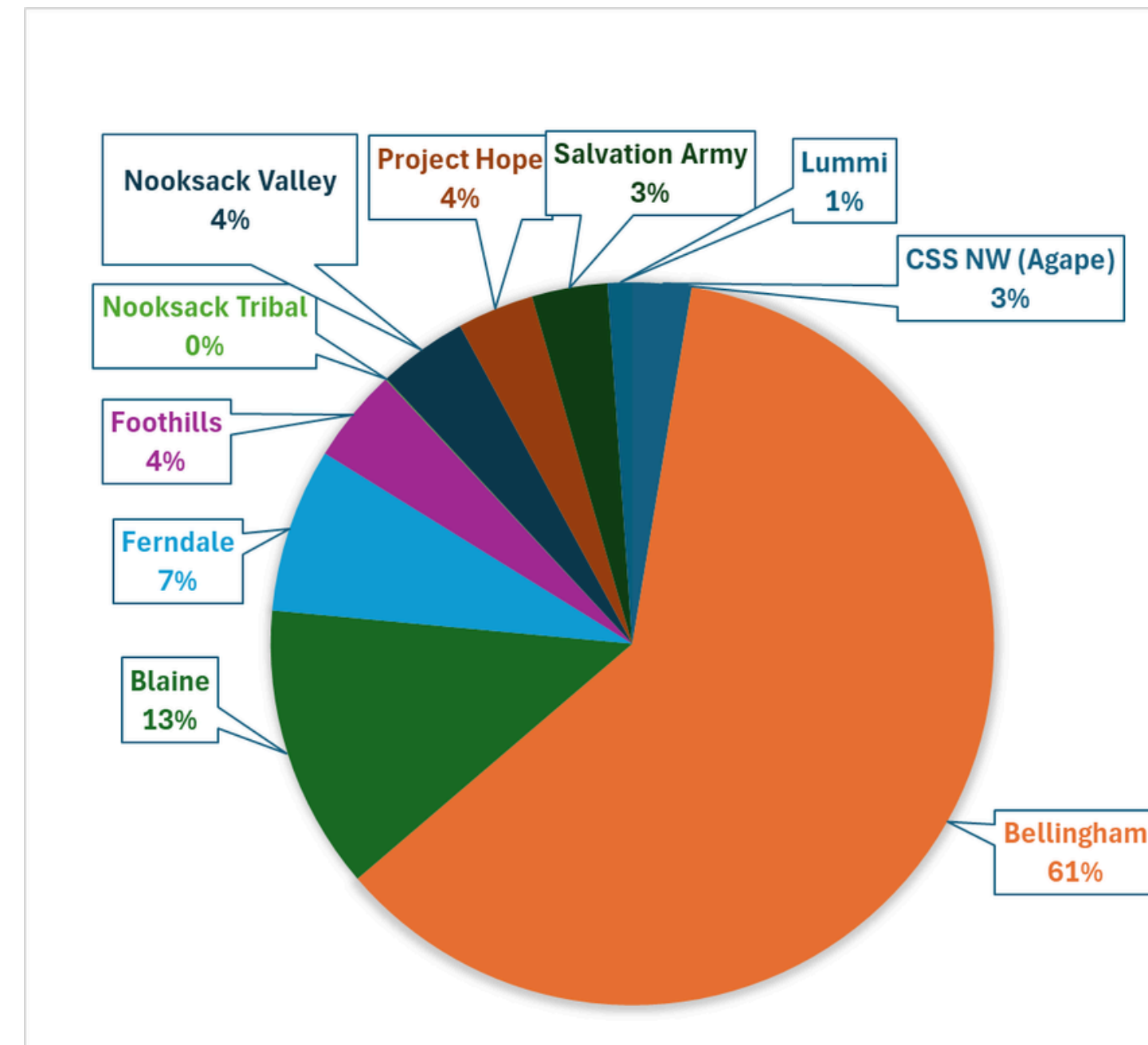


Food Bank Client Visits in Whatcom County

Total WCFBN Client Visits



Total Client Visits By Food Bank



14,853

Whatcom County **seniors** are fed by our food banks



37,979

Whatcom County **children & infants** are fed by our food banks



Only half of food bank shoppers are working age.



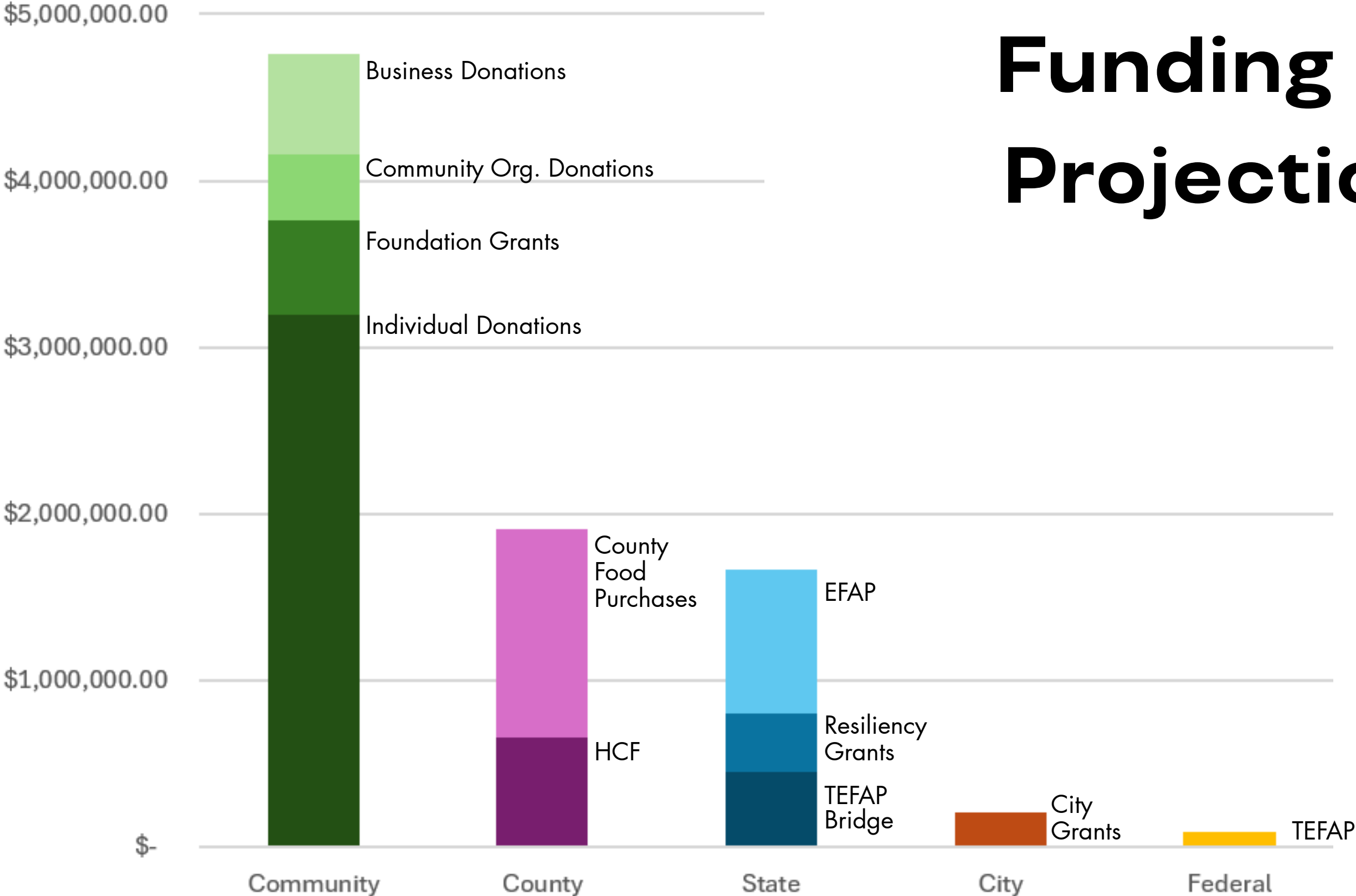
Still, food bank shoppers represent every industry in Whatcom County.

Food banks provide crisis food support for roughly **4,780** people without housing.

90% of shoppers have housing.

WCFBN

Funding Overview & Projection for 2026



Use of County Funds

100% of County funds are used for food & essentials purchasing.

common items:

- eggs
- meat
- dairy
- vegetables
- fruit
- infant care items

100% of purchased food & essentials are distributed

0% of County funds are used for administrative costs.

Ferndale Food Bank - Volunteer stocks eggs



Nooksack Valley Food Bank - Local produce

Empowering Food Banks to Buy Local

Our scale can make a difference in local agriculture



Silva Family Farm



Flynn Farms and Sunseed Farm at Council



Food Bank Funding is a Public Health Initiative

Food insecurity is associated with:

- malnutrition
 - obesity
 - diabetes
 - heart disease
 - asthma
 - mental health conditions
 - eating disorders
 - compromised immune systems
 - many other chronic conditions
-
- increased healthcare costs for families
 - burdens on our local healthcare system



Resolution No. 2024-032 declared food security a Whatcom County public health priority.

The impacts of and community response to food insecurity are described at length in this resolution and in 7 county wide plans, studies, and research.

Continuing to fund the WCFBN is following through on community priorities.

Food insecure seniors experience higher rates of:

- congestive heart failure
- limited mobility and risk of falling
- being immunocompromised

Food insecure children experience higher rates of:

- severe developmental delays in:
 - learning, social skills and physical growth
- school absenteeism due to sickness and ER visits

Food insecure working adults experience higher rates of:

- up to twice the rate of health-related missed workdays
- overnight hospitalizations
- chronic conditions like diabetes

Food Banking Is Wide Scale Affordability



**Without red tape,
overhead, and jargon.**

One year of WCFBN services saves
Whatcom County families at least
\$21,171,000 on groceries and essentials.

**That \$21 million is direct affordability
that Council helped provide.** The value of
food bank support helps families afford
the cost of living:

- housing
- medical bills
- utilities
- child care
- transportation



Thank You For Your Support

It has been invaluable.

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