

WHATCOM COUNTY FOOD BANK NETWORK

July 9th, 2024 – Committee of the Whole

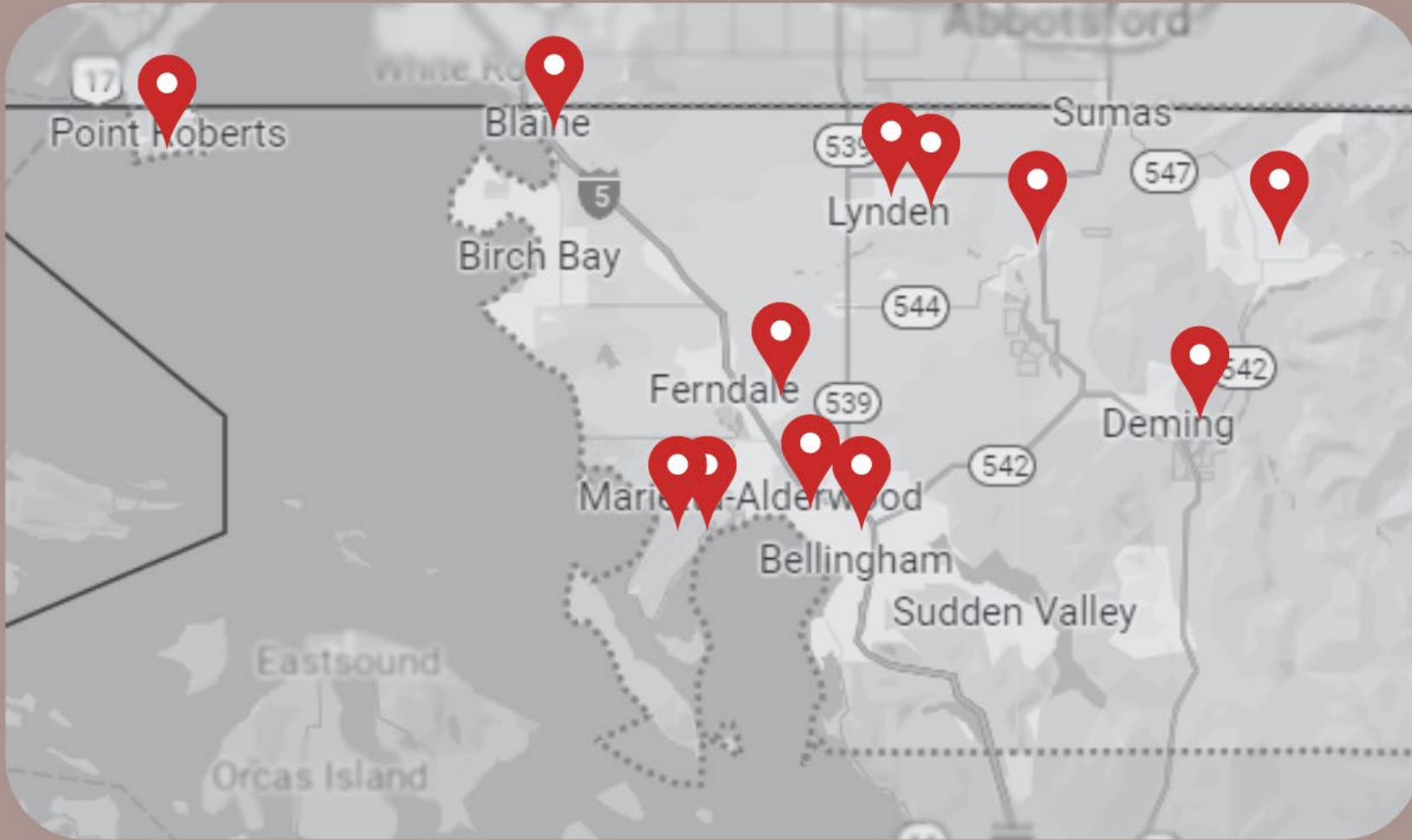


OVERVIEW

The **WCFBN** seeks \$2,000,000 in sustainable funding.

Supporting 4.3.1. of the Whatcom County Food Systems plan: adequately fund the WCFBN to meet the dramatic increase in food insecure individuals in the county; ensure that a portion of increased funding is used to purchase food from Whatcom County producers.





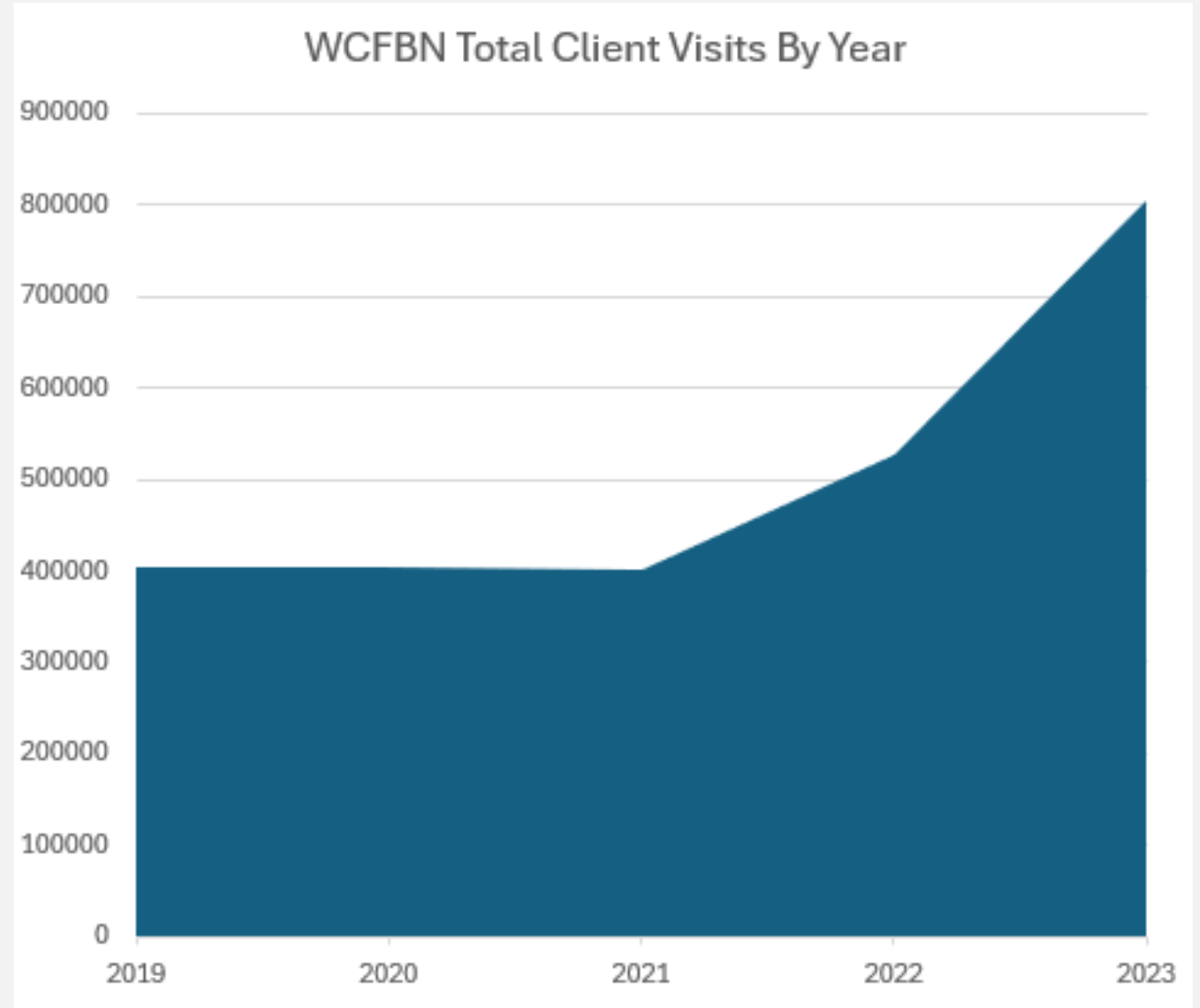
WEST TO EAST

- Point Roberts Food Bank
- Blaine Food Bank
- Lummi Commods
- Lummi Health Services
- Ferndale Food Bank
- Salvation Army Food Bank
- Bellingham Food Bank
- Lynden Project Hope
- Agape Food Bank
- Nooksack Valley Food Bank
- Nooksack Tribal Food Bank
- Foothills Food Bank

A FOOD SECURITY NETWORK SPANNING THE COUNTY

SCALE OF SERVICE

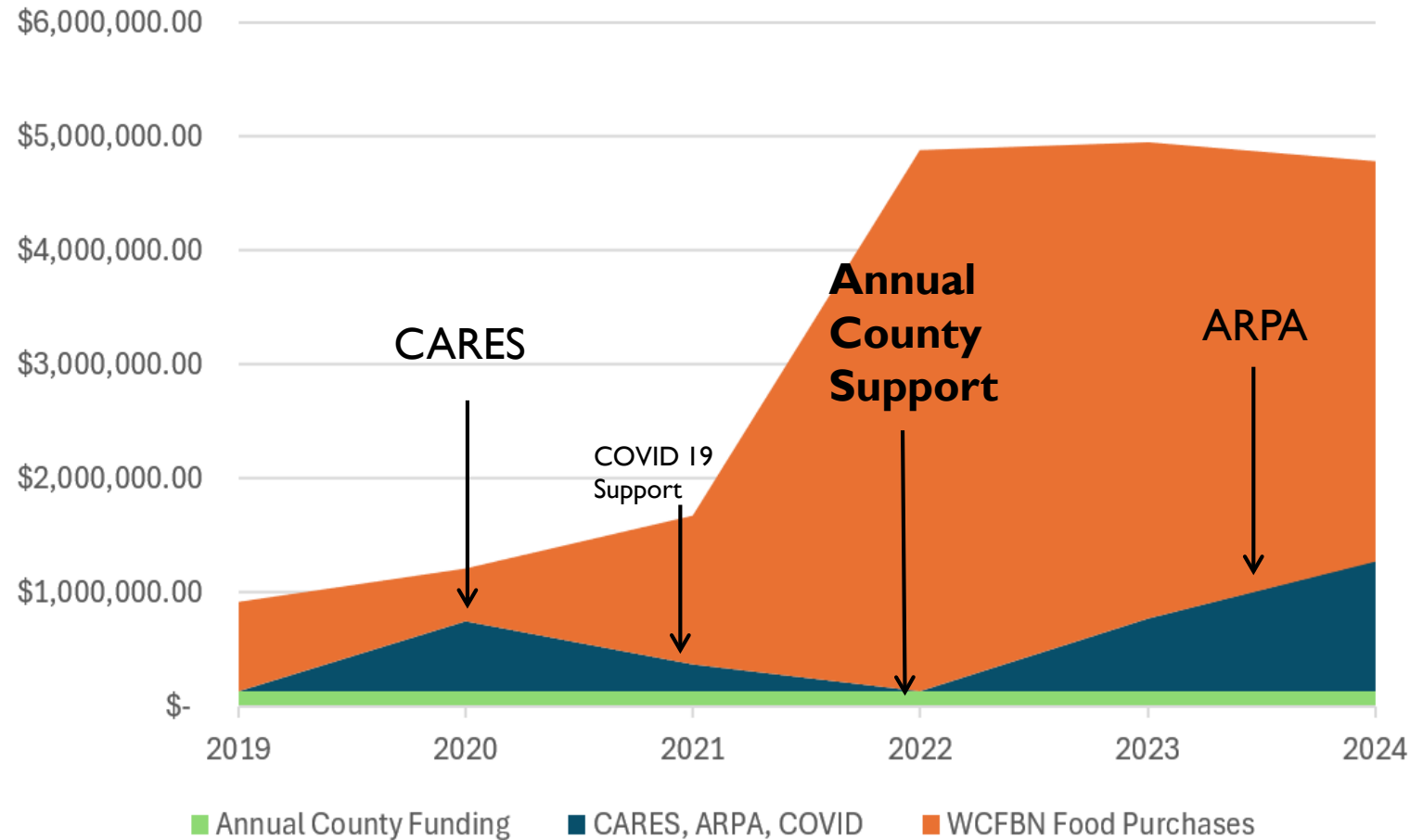
- 9,000 households visit a Whatcom County food bank each week.
- Since 2021, food bank visits statewide grew by 50%.
- In Whatcom County, food bank visits grew by **127% over that same time period.**



SCALE OF FUNDING

- Food Bank funding is not tied to the scope of service
- Our budgets have adapted to the need, while funding determinates remain unrelated.

WC Funding and WCFBN Food Purchasing Over Time

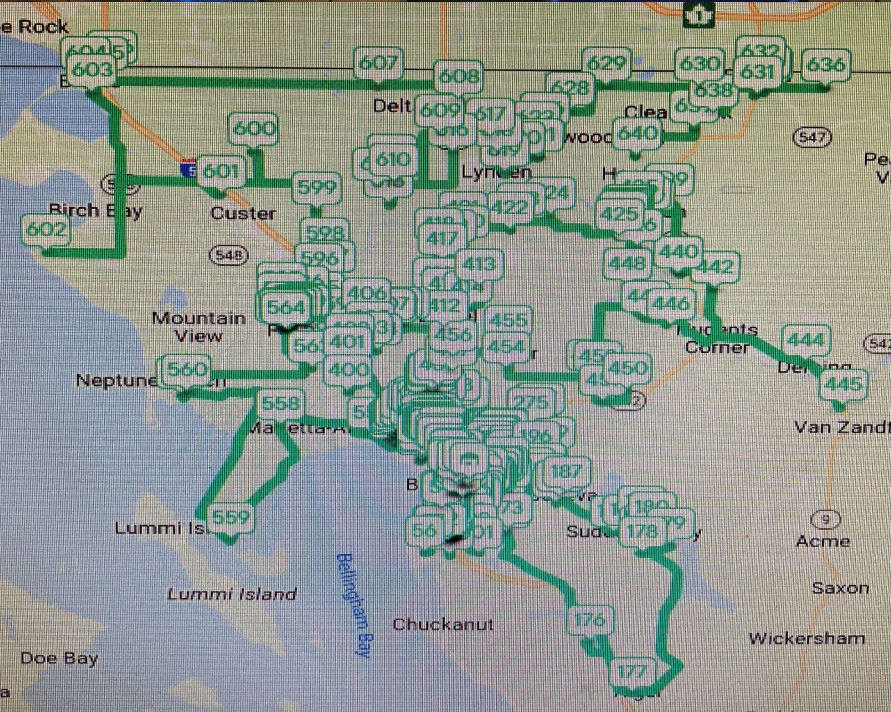


ELDERS, CHILDREN, BREADWINNERS

- 30% of WCFBN clients are children and infants
- 20% of WCFBN clients are seniors
- **58% of male and 79% of female** single headed households live below the ALICE threshold in Whatcom County.



RURAL URBAN DIVIDE

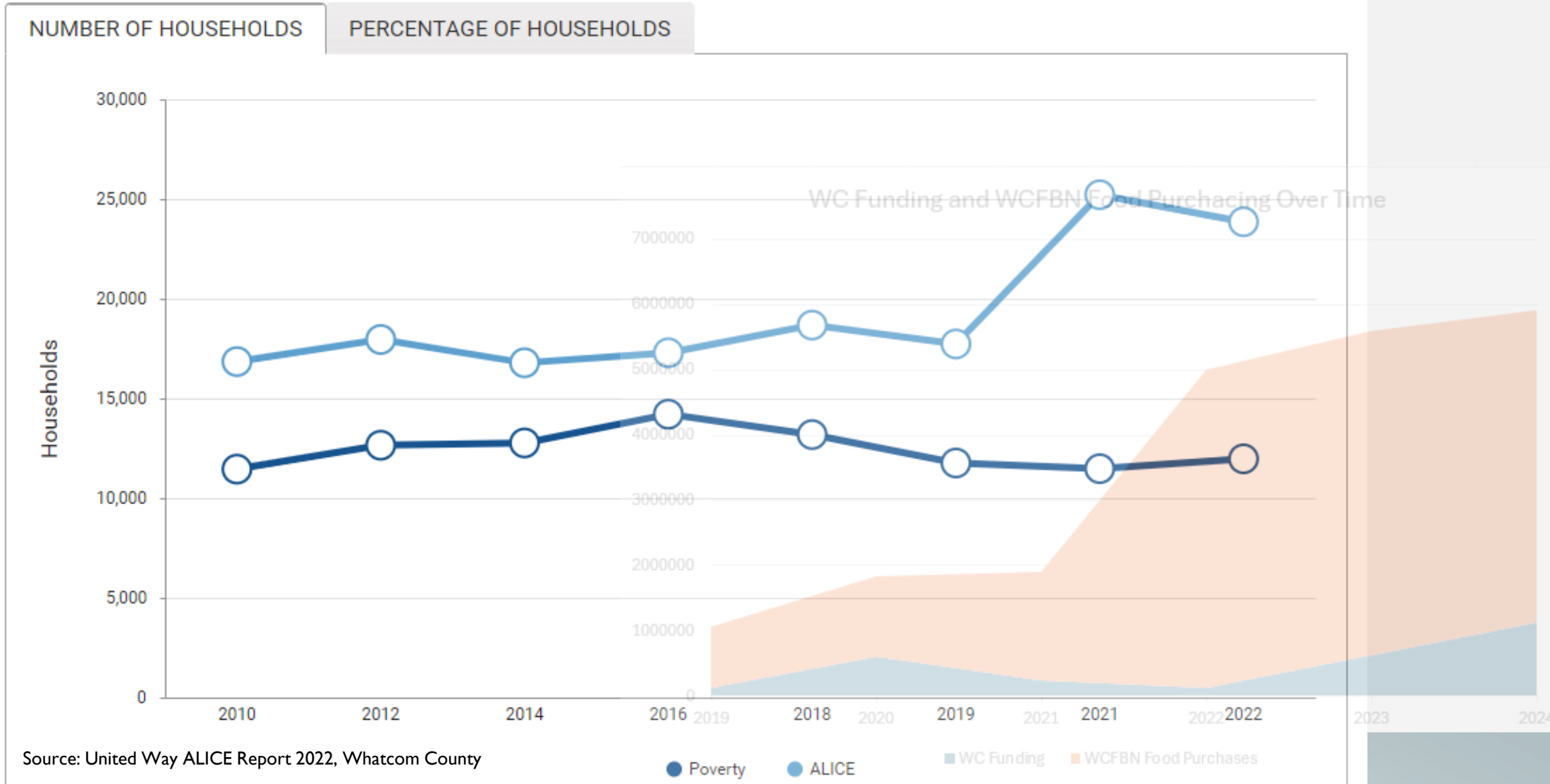


9,000 household visits per week
8,000,000+ lbs of food distributed/ year
Hundreds of dedicated volunteers

WCFBN serves parts of east county
without a municipality to turn to.

Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Whatcom County

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. Use the buttons below to switch between ALICE data over time by number and percentage.



Source: United Way ALICE Report 2022, Whatcom County

COST OF FOOD OUTPACING RENT, MEDICAL

- Although people often sacrifice basic needs to avoid intuitional consequences (i.e. eviction), **eating is not optional**
- Cost of food is now outweighing housing, childcare, and medical expenses.

Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Adult 65+	Two Adults 65+
Housing - Rent	\$763	\$738	\$738	\$738	\$944	\$944	\$763	\$738
Housing - Utilities	\$163	\$258	\$258	\$258	\$310	\$310	\$163	\$258
Child Care	\$0	\$394	\$1,051	\$0	\$788	\$2,261	\$0	\$0
Food	\$555	\$942	\$845	\$1,018	\$1,712	\$1,512	\$512	\$939
Transportation	\$406	\$540	\$540	\$647	\$1,057	\$1,057	\$342	\$519
Health Care	\$148	\$395	\$395	\$395	\$596	\$596	\$528	\$1,056
Technology	\$86	\$86	\$86	\$116	\$116	\$116	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$212	\$335	\$391	\$317	\$552	\$680	\$239	\$363
Tax Payments	\$316	\$682	\$803	\$407	\$910	\$1,185	\$376	\$642
Tax Credits	\$0	(\$217)	(\$217)	\$0	(\$433)	(\$433)	\$0	\$0
Monthly Total	\$2,649	\$4,153	\$4,890	\$3,896	\$6,552	\$8,228	\$3,009	\$4,631
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$31,788	\$49,836	\$58,680	\$46,752	\$78,624	\$98,736	\$36,108	\$55,572
Hourly Wage	\$15.89	\$24.92	\$29.34	\$23.38	\$39.31	\$49.37	\$18.05	\$27.79

Source: United Way ALICE Report 2022, Whatcom County



SOURCING

- We will spend \$5,000,000 this year on food alone
- 22 semi trucks/ month on average
- Redistributed food is down 20% this year in WA
 - not showing post-covid recovery.
- Donated food brings choice, but not stability or scale

Our purchasing power can support local growers and producers.

A FEW OF OUR SOURCING PARTNERS

**CHARLIE'S
PRODUCE**
CULTIVATING FRESH

puget
sound
food hub
farmers cooperative



**CABRERA
FARMS**

www.ospreyhillfarm.com
• **Osprey Hill Farm** •
Acme, WA



**Vertical
Fog Farm**

Mariposa Farm



VIVA FARMS

**DAIRY VALLEY
DISTRIBUTORS**



**BARLEAN'S
FISHERY**
EST. 1972

PUBLIC HEALTH



Eating is not optional.

Prolonged malnutrition is linked to diabetes, heart problems, compromised immune systems, obesity, mental illnesses, and more. This burdens the healthcare system and impacts one's ability to attend work or school well.

Investing in tangible, pre-existing, and efficient food security programs should be a primary strategy to protect public health.



THANK YOU

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