Support local farms and feed hungry kids - Preserve federal matching funds for WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program

REQUEST:
Transfer $100,000 of existing WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program funding into FY 2012-13 to ensure vital federal support

Background:

The WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides vouchers to low-income mothers and children to purchase healthy food from local growers at farmers markets across Washington. With state matching dollars, WIC FMNP leveraged $613,000 in federal dollars last year.

Request:

The Governor's budget maintains the 2011-12 WIC FMNP, but eliminates all funding for the 2012-13 program. By transferring $100,000 - the minimum required to administer the program - from 2011-2012 into FY 2012-2013, Washington would continue to receive $613,000 in federal dollars for fresh, local fruits and vegetables for low-income kids without any fiscal change to the Governor's proposed budget.

In these difficult times, it is clear Washington cannot maintain its previous contribution to FMNP. Yet this transfer would enable our state to receive significant federal funds to help our farmers, our needy families, and our local economy - through these tough times and into the future.

- ► **FMNP federal funds are limited and highly competitive: if Washington eliminates FMNP, we lose the funds to another state and are unlikely to get them back**
- ► **FMNP is good for our economy: for every $100 spent at a farmers market, $62 is reinvested locally and $99 stays in the state.** [1]
- ► **FMNP is good for our farmers: 767 Washington farmers participated in FMNP last year**
- ► **FMNP served more than 54,000 low-income moms and kids across Washington**

For more information, contact:
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Ellen Gray, WA Sustainable Food & Farming Network (360) 336-9694

[1] Findings from Sustainable Seattle's Local Food Economy Study, 2006

The effort to restore the WIC-FMNP is supported by a broad array of organizations, community leaders, farmers, markets and public health & anti-hunger advocates.

Support from the Community Includes:

Farming Business Community

Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network
Washington State Farmers Market Association
Seattle Farmers Market Association
Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance
South Perry Farmers Market
Proctor Farmers Market
Mount Vernon Farmers Market
Tacoma Farmers Market
Salmon Creek Farmers Market
Bellingham Farmers Market
Arlington Farmers Market
Bremerton Farmers Market
Sedro-Woolley Farmers Market
South County Community Farmers Market
Walla Walla Farmers Market
Port Angeles Farmers Market
Ephrata Farmers Market
Lewis County Farmers Market
Shelton Farmers Market
Tilth Producers of Washington
Nash's Organic Produce
Heron Pond Farms
Bramble Rock Farms
SweetBriar Herb Farm
Blue Heron Farm
Ornery Heron Farm
Fresh Abundance Inc
Central Co-op
Spooner Farms
Terry's Berries LLC
Rolf's Choice Salmon
Cottage Gardens
Oak Ridge Farm
Calendula Farm
Cascadian Edible Landscapes
Garden Treasures Farm
Boistfort Valley Farm Inc
Bell's Farm
L'Arche Farm
Walled Garden Produce
Growing Washington
Washington State University Small Farms Program
Full Circle Farm
Poulsbo Farmers Market
Bellevue Farmers Market

Health/Poverty/Food Justice Community

Anti Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Nutrition First
Northwest Harvest
Food Lifeline
WithinReach
Children's Alliance
Slow Food Skagit River Salish Sea
Middle Way Internal Medicine
Tahoma Food Policy Coalition
People for Environmental Action & Community Health
Green Party of Seattle
Project HOPE Spokane

Faith, Teachers, Business & other Communities

Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington
Catholic Charities of Spokane
Earth Ministries
American Dream Real Estate
Spokane Falls Community College
Eastern Washington Voters
Sensitronics LLC

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