

All people living in Seattle are able to meet their basic needs.



A Seattle Preschool Program student picks out a Good Food Bag to take home. The Seattle Farm to Preschool Program brings sustainably grown foods from local farmers to local preschools to improve access to nourishing food and cultivate an equitable food system. (Photo courtesy of the Tilth Alliance)

Human Services offers programs that help ensure all people living in Seattle are able to meet their basic needs. In 2024, rising costs put added pressure on household budgets, making it more difficult to pay for housing, food, utilities, and child care. HSD’s Youth and Family Empowerment (YFE) division funded programs that help make Seattle a more inclusive city where people of varying incomes can afford to live.

The Utility Discount Program—managed by HSD in partnership with Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities—provided an average 60 percent discount to **more than 34,000 income-qualified** Seattle households in 2024, **8,318** of whom were new to the program.

HSD’s hunger relief efforts include providing meals at senior centers, shelters and housing programs, and groceries at food banks and schools. **More than 2.8 million meals** were served to low-income and vulnerable populations in 2024. By collaborating with Food Lifeline and the City-funded bulk buy program, HSD distributed more than **546,000 pounds of food** to meal programs and food banks.

The Seattle Farm to Preschool Program, a partnership between HSD and community agriculture organizations, delivered **34,000 Good Food bags filled with fresh produce** to preschools around Seattle,

generating \$300,000 in sales for local farmers.

In late 2024, HSD helped launch and support the City’s updated [Food Action Plan](#), with a focus on strategies tied to Community Food Security. Actions identified in the report include:

- Strengthen the capacity of meal programs and food banks,
- Strengthen disaster preparedness efforts,
- Sustain and strengthen food/meal programming for older adults,
- Prioritize access to nutritious and locally grown food served in preschools, and
- Prioritize food access for unsheltered populations.

The Community Connectors program provides resource navigation at 10 food banks including Byrd Barr Place and El Centro de la Raza. The goal is to help people connect with other support services and build self-sufficiency. In 2024, community-based partners served **more than 4,300 clients** through this program.

2024 AT A GLANCE

- **833,931 food pantry visits** made by Seattle residents in need in 2024, a nearly 8 percent increase from 2023.
- **138,457 home food deliveries** provided to Seattle residents in 2024, a 20 percent increase from the previous year.
- **157,966 food backpacks** distributed to Seattle students in grades K-12 in 2024, a more than 20 percent increase from 2023.



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In partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation, United Way of King County, the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and others, the Summer Food Service Program provided nearly **60,000 free, nutritious meals and snacks to kids** 18 and under at 60 sites across the city of Seattle.

In July, HSD's YFE division hosted a Summer Food Service celebration at Jefferson Park that included kid-friendly activities like a bouncy house, face painting, and more. The Summer Food Service Program isn't

just about providing meals, it's about sustaining a community's health and vitality during the summer months.

"Operation of the Summer Food Service Program provides continuity between one school year and the next for school-age youth who normally receive breakfasts, lunches, or snacks at school," explains Derryn Anderson, recreation center coordinator at Garfield Community Center. This continuity is crucial in preventing summer learning loss and ensuring that all children return to school ready to learn.

PROMOTING THE UTILITY DISCOUNT PROGRAM

In October, HSD hosted the 2024 Energy, Utility, and Resource Summit in partnership with Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities. The event convened more than 150 representatives from City departments and community partners to learn about updates to City utility assistance programs and how they benefit income-qualified customers.



FamilyWorks received a recognition award (pictured above) for partnering with the Utility Discount Program to conduct in-person monthly sessions to help households navigate language barriers or eligibility questions apply for utility assistance.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: IN THEIR WORDS

OSL Serves provides no-cost, culturally relevant meals to shelters, tiny house villages, permanent supportive housing units, and other organizations needing nutritional support. They prepare, deliver, and serve 6,000-7,000 meals each day; more than 2 million meals annually. In their words:

"Our partnership with the Seattle Human Services... has been the singular most important partnership we have had."

"It has been a long, and not always easy, education. HSD held our hands, honored our work, and allowed us to feel appreciated."



OSL Serves provided free, warm meals outside Seattle City Hall for Thanksgiving 2024.