

Overview: Childhood Hunger in Washington

Hunger affects children in Washington. This hunger is felt by kids in cities, in the suburbs, and in rural areas. Food insecurity may look different in different homes. In some, the pantry may be completely bare. In others, families are making choices between paying the heating bill and buying groceries. In many, mom or dad is skipping dinner so kids can eat.

329,260

Kids in Washington struggle with hunger.

19%

One in every 5 kids is affected.

Federal and state nutrition programs are a critical solution. Across the nation, states who have prioritized these crucial programs have seen positive results, as more kids are able to get consistent, reliable access to the food they need.

School Breakfast

33%

The school breakfast program is only reaching **33% of kids** who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals in Washington.

But as it stands, the school breakfast program is reaching less than half of all Washington kids who are eligible. Something as simple as just changing the time breakfast is served can make all the difference in allowing more kids to have access to this important meal.



Washington School Breakfast Legislation

In March 2018, Governor Jay Inslee signed the Washington Kids Ready to Learn Act, also referred to as the “Breakfast After the Bell” bill, into law. Thanks to this legislation, as many as 30,000 students in high-need schools in Washington will now have the chance to get the critical school breakfast they need every day.

30,000

Number of kids in Washington who could benefit from this legislation.

33%

Current number of Washington kids who receiving school breakfast that also eat free or reduced-price school lunch.



Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year the new law will require that schools with 70 percent or more of their student body qualifying for free or reduced-price meals, must offer breakfast after the start of the school day to each student. The law also provides grants to schools to support the implementation of this new law, and set up alternative breakfast programs.

About the Washington Breakfast Coalition

United Way of King County and No Kid Hungry work together in partnership with the Washington Breakfast Coalition to expand access to school breakfast for kids across the state. The coalition provides additional support to help start, strengthen, and expand school breakfast after the bell programs.

For more information about grant opportunities, promotional and marketing materials, implementation resources, and technical assistance, contact schoolbreakfast@uwkc.org.