

Lynnwood Food Bank

5320 176th Street SW, Lynnwood, WA 98037 (425) 745-1635



January 23, 2022

Lynnwood City Mayor and Council Members
City of Lynnwood
19100 44th Ave. W.
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Dear Mayor Frizzell and Council Members,

Lynnwood Food Bank's mission is to assist people who are hungry in the City of Lynnwood and South Snohomish County by providing a highly efficient food distribution center.

In order to continue serving Lynnwood efficiently with the increasing need, Lynnwood Food Bank is asking for \$1.5 million dollars for the purchase and expansion of property, bringing long-term security to the program that serves Lynnwood's most vulnerable communities.

Last year Lynnwood Food Bank (LFB) served 22,317 households and 74,110 individuals with groceries. Lynnwood Food Bank not only believes in providing groceries in our community but in offering healthy, nutritious options, culturally appropriate foods, nutrition education, and a place where community exists for people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and languages.

According to the US Census Bureau Quick Facts (2019), the City of Lynnwood alone has a population of over 39,000 people; 18% Asian, 13.7% Hispanic, 8% Black or African American and 9.3% mixed of two or more races. During July and August 2021 food bank statistics show that our demographics were 33% Caucasian, 28% Asian, 22% Hispanic. The smaller percentages include Black/ African American 4%, Middle Eastern/ North African 4%, Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander 3%, Mixed 3%, Other 3%, Native American/ Alaska Native 1%.

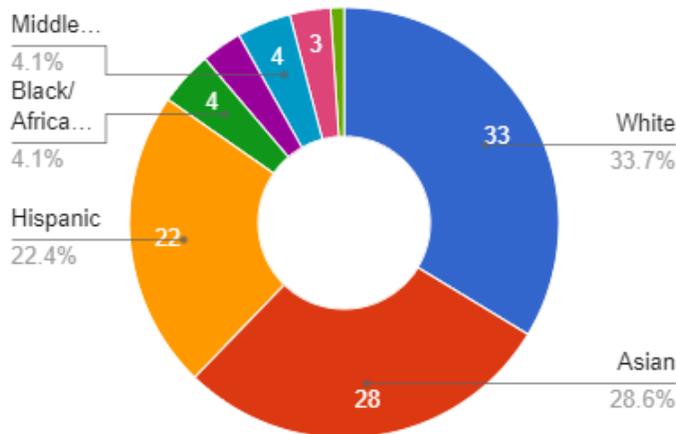
These totals show that 67% of customers that used the food bank this summer were BIPOC (Black Indigenous and People of Color) and knowing the people that we serve allows us to share that a large (percentage not collected) number of these customers are immigrants to the United States. Disparity along racial and socio-economic lines has been well documented and has continued to increase during the difficult times of COVID-19. The customers that Lynnwood Food Bank serve are residents of Lynnwood, they are people that are affected the most by COVID, and they are the most vulnerable families and individuals that live in our community.

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Lynnwood Food Bank 2021



Race/ethnicity (Lynnwood) U.S. Census 2020	Race/ethnicity (LFB) July/Aug. 2021
White	59.2%
Asian	18%
Hispanic	13.7%
Black/ African American	8%
Mixed	9.3%
Middle Eastern/ N. African	-
Nat. Hawaiian/ Pacific Is.	0.1%
Nat. Am./ Alaska Nat.	0.3%

Looking to the future, as the City of Lynnwood grows with an expected residency of almost 64,000 by 2044 and 1.5 million to the region by 2050 (City of Lynnwood Growth Allocations 10/2021), expectations are that the need for assistance will increase along with those numbers.

As Lynnwood Food Bank strategically looks toward that future, the first item on the agenda is security for the Food Bank. LFB currently has a lease on the property that we use for program operations and storage. The property owners would like to sell the portion of the property that the food bank sits on which leaves LFB in a potentially vulnerable state.

In order to ensure the security of Lynnwood Food Bank for the future of people in Lynnwood, the need for a permanent location is essential. Not only does Lynnwood Food Bank need to purchase property,

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but the facilities need to be adequate for the storage of food (cooler, freezer, and dry) as well as the sorting, food safety, and proper rotation of foods. Additional space is needed for customers to wait indoors, in an area free of poor weather, adequate parking, and program space. Programs include a market style/self-select space for LFB customers to choose their own groceries in a dignified manner, nutrition education programs, cooking demonstrations, hosting space for other organizations to provide additional social and health services to our customers, and more. Lynnwood Food Bank is a community space for many that reside in Lynnwood, a place where they are comfortable, welcome, and safe.

The current space that LFB operates in is approximately 4,300 square feet. In order to make the space work for us, volunteers are required to remove pallets of food every day and store outdoors in order to make space for work. At the end of the day the food is returned indoors, however, throughout the day the food is subjected to nature with only the protection of tarps and 10x10 canopies.

After months of reviewing Lynnwood property for sale, it is apparent that the prices are not affordable for LFB to purchase a larger warehouse space. This leaves LFB with the option to purchase the current property and expand the facilities. The possibility of expansion is limited though by possible wetlands and requirement for parking. However, there are possible solutions with the assistance of architectural engineers and the money such a project would undertake.

Lynnwood Food Bank is asking the City of Lynnwood Mayor and Council Members to consider an American Rescue Act Plan grant of \$1.5 million dollars for the purchase of property and expansion to meet the continuing needs of our community and to have nutritious food on their table every day, as Lynnwood grows.

Funds would be spent on the purchase of the property that LFB currently leases at 5320 176th Street in Lynnwood. Lynnwood Food Bank would then hire an architectural engineer to develop plans that will provide additional space for storage, work areas, and a market. Depending on permits and regulations with the City of Lynnwood Planning Department, LFB could increase the building foot print to include an indoor waiting area and 'shopping' area, and raise the roof to add a mezzanine for additional storage.

Lynnwood Food Bank would commit an additional 30%, an amount of \$300,000, to bring the total purchase and expansion budget to \$1,800,000.

LFB has been a part of the community since 1978 when we began as Joseph's Closet and we intend to be here serving our community as long as the need exists. Having the security of owning property and not being at the mercy of a landlord allows LFB to truly focus on the service at hand. With funding that this grant would provide, Lynnwood Food Bank can 1.) continue to provide nutritious foods for everyone, 2.) continue to grow the cultural program that serves our BIPOC and immigrant communities with respect

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and appreciation for what they bring to our community by providing culturally traditional foods and communication in a variety of languages and 3.) continue to grow our nutrition education programs that helps reduce the health disparity in our community that exists along racial and socio-economic lines. These three important roles filled by Lynnwood Food Ban, can flourish and continue to grow, increasing the security of our vulnerable community members and increasing their dietary related health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alissa E. Jones

Alissa E. Jones, Executive Director
Lynnwood Food Bank
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