



October 5, 2016

Chair Upthegrove, Members of the Committee –

Hunger in King County continues to be an issue – with nearly 47 million meals missing each year and almost 1 in 5 children facing food insecurity. At Food Lifeline we're committed to closing the meal gap and have embarked in a capital campaign to more than double our service in the coming years.

Food Lifeline works with nearly 100 programs throughout King County – from Hopelink in the East and North of the county to the South King County Food Bank Coalition and agencies in the Seattle Food Committee and Meals Partnership Coalition. More than 50% of our annual 39 million pounds of food are distributed through these organizations, but we know it's not enough.

At our new Hunger Solution Center in South King County, we will increase the amount of food we're distributing to help end hunger for people today, and also expand our collaborations and partnerships in order to shorten the food bank line in the future. Our work will prevent food waste in King County by recovering surplus food from over 100 local food donors and using it to provide meals to programs like Boys and Girls Clubs - allowing them to focus their limited resources on programming instead of food purchases. Our future growth will ensure that kids in our community are getting the food they need to focus in school and grow big and strong – all efforts supported by the Best Starts for Kids Levy.

We have raised more than \$21 million towards our \$34 million goal from both private and public funds. With \$3.1 million in support from the State of Washington, and \$250,000 from the City of Seattle, we hope that King County will also come to the table to show support for this important work. We recognize that the County continues to face significant budget challenges. We feel that a modest funding allocation of \$50,000 would help support the campaign financially, but would also show King County as a partner in the important work that we're doing in the community. Those funds would be leveraged many times over to help meet the needs of hungry people across King County and beyond.

We hope the Council will consider including these funds in the final budget.

Sincerely,

Nathan Pedigo  
Grant Writer, Food Lifeline