



Attachment A1  
 HUMAN/SOCIAL & HOUSING SERVICES  
 2024-2025 Common Application

**PART A: COVER PAGE**

Please fill out this form completely. Note that individual funding agencies have specific grant requirements and will require supplemental materials. Please check the agency website below for details.

**To which source are you applying?**

- City of Bellingham’s Housing or Human/Social Services NOFA:  
<https://cob.org/services/housing/funding-opportunities-2/partnerships-funding>
- United Way of Whatcom County’s Community Impact Fund:  
<https://www.unitedwaywhatcom.org/help-for-organizations/>
- Whatcom County Health and Community Services:  
<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/Bids.aspx>

**Agency Contact Information:**

Agency Name: [Whatcom Council on Aging](#)  
 DBA (if applicable): [WCOA](#)  
 EIN: [91-0784024](#) UEID (from SAM.gov): [NEL7H94CHM75](#)  
 Mailing address: [315 Halleck Street, Bellingham, WA 98225](#)  
 Website: [www.whatcomcoa.org](http://www.whatcomcoa.org)  
 General phone: [360-733-4030](tel:360-733-4030)  
 State of Washington Business License Number(s): [600436197](#)

**Executive Director (or authorized representative):**

Name: [Chris Orr](#)  
 Title (if not ED): Click here to enter text.  
 Email: [corr@whatcomcoa.org](mailto:corr@whatcomcoa.org)  
 Phone: [360-733-4030](tel:360-733-4030) x1026

**Application Contact (If different):**

Name: [Robert Vandine](#)  
 Title: [Director, Meals on Wheels and More](#)  
 Email: [rvandine@whatcomcoa.org](mailto:rvandine@whatcomcoa.org)  
 Phone: [360-733-4030](tel:360-733-4030) x1023

**Program Information:**

Program Name: [Meals on Wheels and More](#)  
 Program Address: [315 Halleck Street, Bellingham, WA 98225](#)  
 Are all program services delivered at this address?  Yes  No



**Funding Request:** The award amount is dependent on the funding organization. Please see individual funder’s supplemental materials for more information about the funds available.

How much funding per year are you requesting for this program?

\$ \$40,000

Total Annual Project Budget:

\$ 2,544,918

Annual Organizational Budget:

\$ Click here to enter text. 3,690,759

## PART B: AGENCY INFORMATION

Please limit your responses to no more than two pages for questions 1-5.

1. **Agency Mission.** Please paste or copy your agency’s mission statement below.

Whatcom Council on Aging, in partnership with the people we serve, offers nutritional, health, social, recreational, and educational programs that promote lifelong independence.

2. **Agency Beneficiaries.** Briefly describe the intent of your agency’s programs and who primarily benefits from them. Please describe your organization’s impact, specifying the number of beneficiaries or clients served per year and their demographics.

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The Whatcom Council on Aging targets older adults through our three programs, Meals on Wheels and More, the Bellingham Senior Activity Center (BSAC), and Bellingham At Home. The BSAC and Bellingham At Home target adults age 50 and over while Meals on Wheels and More targets adults age 60 and over throughout Whatcom and San Juan Counties. The agency serves approximately 4,000 older adults each year. MOW&M serves over 250,000 meals each year, and the BSAC serves over 2000 members.

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3. **Qualifications and expertise.** Briefly summarize your agency’s qualifications and expertise (e.g., years of operation, accreditations, experience of staff members, number of volunteers). Please mention any recent major organizational changes.

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Incorporated in 1964, WCOA has been serving local seniors for over 50 years. Founding Board Members contributed to the effort to establish the Older Americans Act of 1965. Meals on Wheels and More, the largest of our programs, has maintained the Whatcom/San Juan Senior Nutrition Program contract with Northwest Regional Council since the 1970's. WCOA is governed by a Board of diverse professionals and retirees. Executive Director, Chris Orr has more than 25 years of nonprofit management and development experience. Food Service Manager, Ian Cassinos has led the food service team for over 13 years. In 2024 Rob Vandine joined the program as Meals on Wheels and More Director, bringing over 15 years' experience developing and expanding food service systems. Nancy Hay joined the program in 2024 as well, as the Director of Donor Engagement. WCOA programs are heavily dependent on volunteers. Volunteers help package, serve/distribute, and deliver meals, set up and clean up the dining rooms, and provide administrative support. In 2024 more than 350 volunteers contributed 29,000 volunteer hours to WCOA programs. Another 50+ volunteers supported meal delivery and service at remote meal sites.

4. **Racial Equity and Social Justice.** What steps has your organization taken to address issues of racial equity and social justice within your agency? Which steps are complete, and which are planned or ongoing?

WCOA maintains an anti-discrimination policy and has taken steps to address racial equity and social justice.

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, BSAC Director, Molly Simon, and senior volunteers formed the BSAC Task Force for Respect, Inclusion & Equity to expand the diversity of members, staff and volunteers and to create a more inclusive environment. Over 2 years the Task Force drafted a code of conduct for the organization which we continue to utilize, held workshops, facilitated discussions on race and anti-bullying, and posted signs about respect and inclusion throughout the BSAC.

- WCOA Board of Directors and staff participated in DEI training conducted by Kindred in early 2024.

This training focused on understanding belonging, inclusion, diversity and equity, and began discussing strategies for how our organization can interrupt inequality and strengthen belonging.

- Meals on Wheels maintains a home delivered meals route throughout the Lummi Nation.

- WCOA also provides funding for the Twin Sisters Farmers Market, who's mission is to provide fresh produce to underserved communities and food deserts.

- WCOA programs partner with the Opportunity Council, Work Source, and Work First to provide opportunities to adults returning to the workforce. Multiple WCOA staff were hired through these programs.

- WCOA received a grant this year through Whatcom Community Foundation which was focused on providing a 'cultural meal' for our Senior Community Meal. Through this grant we were able to partner with a local Indian restaurant and community to serve our seniors a meal highlighting another culture's cuisine.

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5. **Agency Funding.** List your organization’s most significant funding sources from greatest to least (including the United Way, Whatcom County Health and Community Services and City of Bellingham); dollar amounts are not necessary. Significant funding sources can be defined as sources that make up more than 15% of your program budget. If you have many funding sources, you may list them by category (i.e., federal, state, foundations, individual donors). Please mention any anticipated or recent changes in your future funding or financial position.

Northwest Regional Council (funding through the federal Older Americans Act and the WA State Senior Nutrition Funding)

Private Donations and Fundraising

Program Income- (client meal donations and senior center memberships and fees)

Whatcom Community Foundation (endowment)

Suddock Foundation

San Juan County

Storer Foundation

Whatcom County

City of Bellingham

Harvest Foundation

Dewey Griffin Subaru/Subaru of America-\_\_

FEMA/ Emergency Food and Shelter Program

United Way of Whatcom County

Chuckanut Health Foundation

Jansen Foundation

Haggen Foundation

Our 2025 budget includes a \$163,273 decrease in Federal funding, mainly due to the expiration of the American Rescue Plan funding. Additional state funding runs through the end of June and we are unsure of the future of this funding source. The funding source decrease, continued heightened demand for services, and rising food and supply cost have forced us to cancel our to-go meal program and implement a wait list for our home-delivered program for the first time in our history.

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## PART C: PROGRAM INFORMATION

Please limit your responses to no more than two pages for questions 6-8.

6. **Program Summary.** Briefly summarize the program and its core activities in one or two sentences.

The mission of Meals on Wheels and More in Bellingham is to provide at-risk, homebound seniors with nutrition, social interaction, and the referral to services they need to remain healthy and independent in their homes.



7. **Program Purpose.** Identify the community need(s) that the program addresses. What are the measurable outcomes that will result from the services provided?

Meals on Wheels and More delivers nutritionally balanced meals to homebound Bellingham seniors at risk for malnutrition, hunger, and social isolation. Our program provides seniors with meals containing at least 1/3 of their daily nutrition requirements to help clients maintain their nutrition and independent living. Senior citizens in general, and especially homebound seniors, are at risk of developing problems related to social isolation. Our staff and volunteers with check in's over the phone as well as weekly meal deliveries that all Bellingham homebound seniors have someone to engage with.

MOW anticipates serving over 425 homebound seniors within Bellingham City limits over the course of the year. These seniors will not be funded through Medicare waiver programs (COPES and TSOA). Nearly all meals will be delivered by volunteer drivers. A survey will be conducted during the year and the target outcomes will show that:

- Over 90% of our clients will report an income level below 50% of AMI.
- Over 80% of clients will report an income level below 30% of AMI

The anonymous survey will also report that this program:

- Provides participants their main meal of the day
- Helps them avoid going hungry

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8. **Program Status.** How long has this program been in operation in Whatcom County? Since your last application, have you made any changes in how you offer services? If this is a new program, how far along is your agency in the planning process? What resources has your organization already invested?

The Meals on Wheels and More program continues to provide meals to all qualified Bellingham residents regardless of ability to financially contribute. The Whatcom Council on Aging has handled the senior nutrition contract through NWRC since the 1970's. The community need for these services and meals skyrocketed during the 2019 Pandemic, and our demand has not lessened as pandemic era restrictions have ended. The biggest change we are anticipating in 2025 is the cancellation of our to-go meal program and the need to implement a waitlist for our home delivery services for the first time. There will be no cuts to existing clients, but new applicants to the program will need to wait until slots are available to us as we work through funding challenges. Since our last application, we have hired a Director of Donor Engagement in Nancy Hay. Her role is to help coordinate and improve our existing means of fundraising, while also seeking new avenues and grants.



**UNITED WAY**  
Whatcom County

## 2025 Community Impact Fund Grant Application Addendum

### UNITED WAY FOCUS AREAS

1. To support financial stability in Whatcom County, we have identified three funding priorities below, basic needs, economic mobility, and breaking the cycle of poverty. Choose **one** category below that best aligns with your agency/program:

#### Basic Needs

- Food security
- Stable, attainable, affordable housing
- Health and mental health care access

#### Economic Mobility

- Financial literacy and training
- Vocational readiness training and support
- Adult education programs

#### Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

- Affordable child care and early learning programs
- Academic programs to increase student attendance and achievement
- Parenting support
- Addiction treatment and recovery
- Abuse prevention

2. Please describe how your program/agency services align with the category you selected above.

The Meals on Wheels and More program addresses basic needs in Whatcom County by helping provide nutritious meals to the county's vulnerable seniors through our Home Delivery program, as well as our Senior Community Meals.

#### Home Delivery

To qualify for the program, seniors must be over the age of 60 (or 55 and older for Native American and Native Alaskans) and be categorized as homebound. These seniors have the most difficulty shopping or preparing meals for themselves and are at high risk for food insecurity. Seniors are delivered up to 7 balanced frozen meals each week by a volunteer driver. This also provides meaningful social connection for seniors who may be isolated completely without our visit each week. Seniors with a higher risk of safety or inability to store meals receive a fresh



**UNITED WAY**  
Whatcom County

## 2025 Community Impact Fund Grant Application Addendum

meal, delivered 5 days a week. In 2024 we delivered over 142,000 meals to 1059 Whatcom County seniors.

### Senior Community Meals

In Whatcom County, seniors can enjoy a hot meal as well as social connection at 6 service sites. Bellingham, Blaine, Ferndale, Everson, Sumas, and Point Roberts locations combined to provide 2,350 seniors with over 52,000 meals. Many participants report that these meals are their main meal they eat each day, and when coupled with the positive social interactions at our meal sites, these lunches help delay the onset of adverse health effects the seniors would otherwise face.

In January of 2025 we finally brought to an end our pandemic developed “Frozen to go” program. This was a program developed during the Covid pandemic that provided meals to seniors who were isolated for health reasons, but not necessarily homebound. Participants were directed towards our two continuing programs and were also given information about other food resources in county.

3. Please provide two or three key outcomes you measure that indicate progress toward your mission. List the number of clients being served, what you track, and the most recent results.

We evaluate the service based on the feedback we receive from our clients when surveyed, as well as the overall demand for the home delivery services we offer.

From 2022 to 2024 we saw total meal numbers increase in Whatcom county from 161,000 meals to over 168,000 meals, with the majority of these meals being our home delivery program.

Our last client survey was conducted in summer of 2023, with a new survey planned for 2025. The results of the survey show that our core mission objectives were met at a high level:

- 93% of respondents indicated that the home delivered meals help them eat healthier
- 88% of respondents say the program helps them live at home and maintain independence
- 85% of respondents say the meal delivered is their main meal of the day
- 76% of respondents say the check in from volunteer driver makes them feel less isolated



**UNITED WAY**  
Whatcom County

## 2025 Community Impact Fund Grant Application Addendum

4. How does United Way's investment help meet the funding needs of the organization or program? Please give specific examples of how United Way funds are/will be utilized.

Since 2023, our average cost per meal has risen from \$8.50, to nearly \$12.00 projected in 2025. This is an increase of 29% in a time with serious funding questions and uncertainty with our Federal funding levels. United Way's investment will go directly towards our food and supplies budget to help offset the increased costs and inflation we are facing.

5. Briefly describe how your agency/program will utilize community partnerships or coordinate with other agencies (UW partner agencies, other community non-profits, government agencies, local companies, schools, etc.) to advance your work/mission.
- Northwest Regional Council (NWRC) – this is our largest partner and collaborator. Through the NWRC, we receive Federal, State, and County funds for our Senior Nutrition Program funding. In return we collect and report on meal data and client demographics with the state of WA. NWRC case managers will also refer clients to us for our home delivery program. Our staff also regularly refers clients back to the NWRC's Aging and Disability resource center to help connect clients with additional services they may require.
  - Washington Association of Senior Nutrition Partners (WASNP)- a collection of other Senior Nutrition Program partners from around the state. We share best practices and information throughout the year and at an annual conference.
  - Whatcom County Senior Centers and Parks Department – We hold agreements with local senior centers to operate our Senior Community meals at their locations. Our current building, the Bellingham Senior Activity Center, is owned by the Parks Dept. Our Senior Community Meals help drive traffic to the community centers to help support their programming, and their programming helps keep meal participants engaged before and after service times.
  - Whatcom Food Network– we participate and share ideas and best practices among many food insecurity focused community partners. We work together to advocate for vulnerable populations and lobby our local governments for support.
  - Senior Day in the Park – Our largest event, which connected 1,500 seniors with over 100 vendors and community partners
  - Dewey Griffin Subaru – We partner with them each year for their 'Share the Love' event, which raises both funds and awareness for our mission.
  - Haggen Heroes Against Hunger – Partner with Haggen grocery stores to raise awareness and funds for our program and many other food insecurity resources in the northwest.
6. United Way focuses on ALICE households in Whatcom County. ALICE refers to households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but not enough to afford the basic cost of living in our community.



## 2025 Community Impact Fund Grant Application Addendum

- a. What percentage of your program recipients are below the ALICE threshold based on the survival budget for Whatcom County?  
Our demographic collection is based on AMI. The single senior ALICE number of \$36,108 is roughly 37% of the AMI for Whatcom County. Based on this, 57% of our home delivered seniors are below the ALICE threshold. Additionally, we have another 29% of clients that fall within 30-50% of the AMI, of which some of those clients would be under ALICE as well.
- b. What percentage of your program recipients are ALICE (above FPL but below the ALICE threshold)?  
Unfortunately, we do not have a specific demographic question that classifies a participant based on the FPL. Based on our AMI ranges, potentially 86% of our home delivery clients could fall in the ALICE range. We do not collect income data for Senior Community Meal participants.
- c. Do you collect client data by zip code?  
Yes, data can be sorted by zip code

Visit the [United for ALICE](#) website for the most recent (2024 report) Whatcom County data to determine the survival budget guidelines for ALICE households.

7. Please share an example of a client who was helped by your services.  
*\*Note: if you receive a 2025 Community Impact Grant, this story may be shared on your behalf by United Way for the purpose of our community fundraising. Names and details may be altered for privacy.*

Robert: 91YO, lives alone, Low appetite and recent weight loss of 15 pounds (down to 133 lbs). Stated during in-home assessment that Meals on Wheels & More is helping him remember to eat at least one meal per day and that being able to conserve his energy by not having to shop for and cook that one meal enables him to later fix himself a simple food item such as a sandwich or soup. His only real human contact is his supportive daughter, so he loves seeing the Meals on Wheels & More delivery person and exchanging a few pleasantries with them. He said that he thinks of the Meals on Wheels & More program as 'family.'