



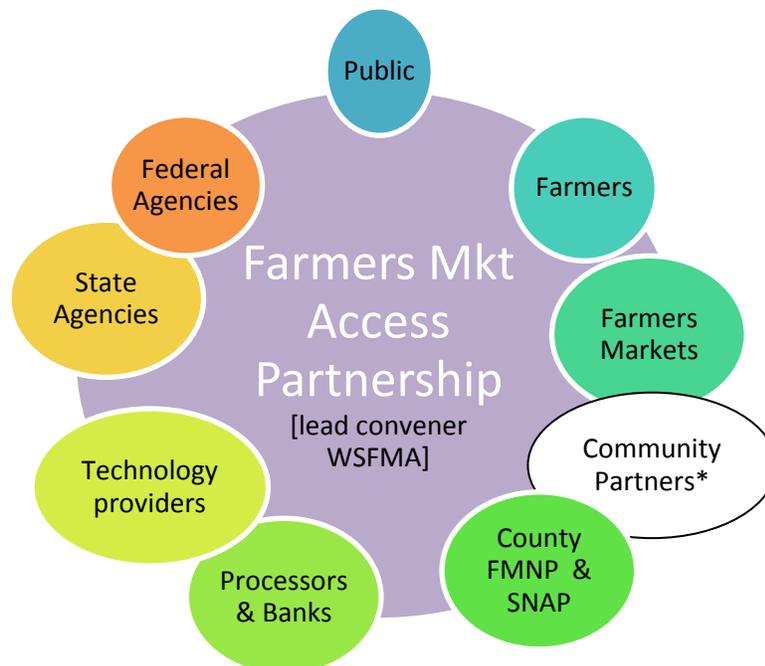
## Washington Farmers Market Access Partnership

*Convening statewide and regional partners to streamline information, coordinate efforts, and inform policy that support low income shoppers, local farms, and farmers markets in WA State.*

In an era of reduced public resources, rapidly changing technology, and increasing opportunities for farmers markets to promote healthy foods and direct marketing farms to food insecure shoppers, coordination has never been more important.

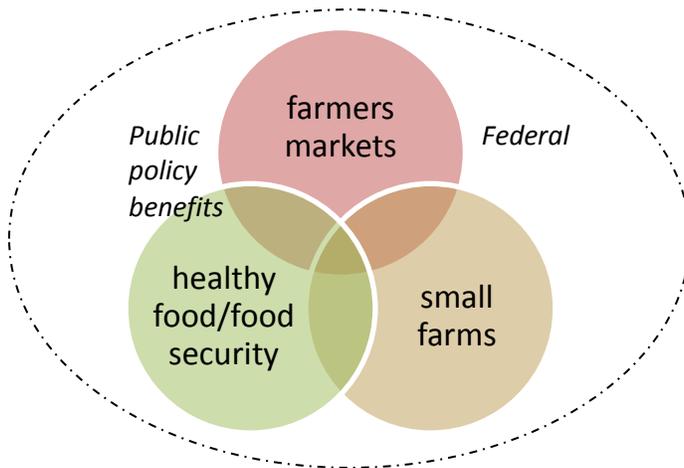
In 2013, the **Farmers Market Access Partnership** formalized a group of partners with expertise working together for over 12 years to expand the use of federal food benefits at farmers markets so that WA State can more effectively:

- a) Streamline information and resources for markets and community partners participating in FMNP, SNAP, and other programs; and
- b) Participate in policy and implementation discussions regarding technology and food benefit redemptions.



\*Local public health departments, churches, food banks, local non-profits, anti-hunger and nutrition organizations, etc.

**Partnership members bring together three critical arenas of expertise: Farmers markets, small farms, and healthy foods/food security.**



**Founding Members:** partners from Department of Social and Health Services-SNAP; Department of Health- WIC and FMNP; WithinReach; Nutrition First; NW Harvest-statewide food bank; Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition; 35 farmers markets; Catholic Charities of Spokane; WA State Dept of Ag; WSU Small Farms Program; local public health depts, clinics and agencies.

### **Regional Leads Program:**

In 2013 WSFMA, started the **Regional Leads Program** to help expand the use of federal food assistance benefits at farmers markets by strengthening relationships among market managers and community partners. For 2015, the Regional Leads Program expanded to support food access goals in six diverse regions across the State: Eastern WA/Spokane Region; the West Sound Region; Skagit Valley; Snohomish County; Pierce County; and Klickitat County.

This work builds on the experience and research that shows that farmers markets are best able to serve low income communities using federal food assistance benefits when they are well connected with local government agencies and community nonprofits that work with the same groups. Each “Regional Lead” serves as an active participant in the Farmers Market Access Partnership, acting as a liaison between community partners, county/regional agencies, and farmers markets. It is through the Regional Leads Program where the work of the Farmers Market Access Partnership gets disseminated, implemented, and actualized.

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### **2015 Priorities for the Farmers Market Access Partnership**

- Develop “common messaging” to promote consistent identification, language, & terminology.
  - Support, strengthen, and inform the Regional Leads Program.
  - Implement and evaluate healthy incentives farmers market programs.

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