## Benji Astrachan

During the process of creating the plan for food recovery across Washington state, it is essential that we listen to and follow the leadership of frontline organizations doing direct hunger relief. It was good to have a workgroup made up of food banks, meal programs and other organizations working on the ground, but their needs must be weighted with utmost significance, or else the entire plan will fail. There must be significant funding and real actionable steps to expand cold storage at food banks, and to increase staffing capacity to oversee a new aspect of product management, that is, the safe reception, processing and redistribution of recovered edible foods. In order to make sure this is done in accordance with Washington Administrative Codes on food handling, safety and donation, most food banks and other frontline organizations will need serious resources to be made available to create the necessary infrastructure and allot adequate staffing or volunteer power. Organizations are currently worried about simply benig asked to take on this additional labor without having access to proper funding and support to create the space for safe and efficient food recovery.