



***Grow a Little Extra* is back for a second year with the goal to top last year's donation total of 10,000 pounds of garden produce**

CHEYENNE, WYO - First Lady Jennie Gordon's Wyoming Hunger Initiative is proud to partner with University of Wyoming Extension for a second year to encourage Wyomingites to "grow a little extra" for their neighbors in need of access to fresh produce around the state. Instead of reinventing the wheel, this collaboration utilizes existing resources to create a sustainable solution to hunger.

Last year's campaign yielded over 10,000 pounds of fresh garden produce donated for distribution around the state to local anti-hunger organizations. Fresh produce is difficult and costly for the food pantry system to procure, and this project encourages people from across the state to participate in this Wyoming solution to hunger.

The *Grow a Little Extra* campaign will target three groups in Wyoming: home gardeners who can "grow a little extra" to share with local food pantries, existing community gardens who can dedicate one or two sections to growing food specifically for local food distribution agencies, and churches or community organizations who want to start a new garden to grow food for the community.

"University of Wyoming Extension is already doing good work around the state with their Master Gardener program and Cent\$ible Nutrition Program," says First Lady Jennie Gordon. "This Wyoming Hunger Initiative effort continues to leverage the work already being done to increase access to local produce for a wide range of people in Wyoming." Strengthening local food systems reduces food insecurity and increases positive health outcomes, which supports

Wyoming Hunger Initiative's goal of ensuring nourished kids, healthy families, and thriving communities across the state.

"The Cent\$ible Nutrition Program and UW Extension values the partnership with the First Lady's Wyoming Hunger Initiative to increase access to locally grown fresh produce to people in need. Together, we have been able to increase produce donations and nutrition education to food pantry and anti-hunger agency patrons," says Cent\$ible Nutrition State Director Mindy Meuli.

Anyone in the state of Wyoming who enjoys gardening is encouraged to grow an extra row or two and donate the produce to their local Extension office, where it will be weighed and distributed to local anti-hunger organizations. Wyoming Hunger Initiative has also distributed seed packets to all twenty-three counties and the Wind River Indian Reservation for anyone interested in picking them up for free at their local Extension office. Lastly, infrastructure grants are available from Wyoming Hunger Initiative for organizations wishing to expand an existing community garden or start a new one to grow produce specifically for sharing with families and organizations in need.

About Wyoming Hunger Initiative

Wyoming Hunger Initiative seeks to find and support Wyoming solutions to the challenge of food insecurity, which affects approximately 86,000 residents statewide. Launched in October 2019, Wyoming Hunger Initiative is the official initiative of Wyoming's First Lady Jennie Gordon and is governed by the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Governor's Residence Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. For more information about Grow a Little Extra, visit www.nohungerwyo.org/grow.

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