



Proposed Changes to Law

Cottage Food Program

A bill is being proposed in the Washington state legislature to make changes to law ([Chapter 69.22 RCW](#)) to switch oversight of Cottage Food Operations from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Health.

A Cottage Food Permit allows people in Washington to sell certain “nonpotentially hazardous foods,” like tortillas, breads, baked goods, or mixed spices, made in their homes.

To help us build our Cottage Food program so that it best serves both makers and consumers of these foods, we want input from current Cottage Food Operators, community members who want to start a home-based food businesses, and food safety specialists.

GET INVOLVED! See information on the next page.

June 2024



What are Cottage Foods?

Certain foods made in a home kitchen for direct sale to the public.



Who does this impact?

People who sell– or want to sell– foods made in their home kitchens; and people concerned about food safety.



How to engage?

Fill out a survey or attend a listening session to share your thoughts on the Cottage Foods program and this potential change.

Survey

Your input will help us smoothly shift the state Cottage Food program to Department of Health. We also want ideas about how to improve the program.

Specifically, we are looking for feedback from:

- Cottage Food permit holders
- Community members who prepare food in their home kitchen to sell to the public
- People who want to start a home-based food business
- Food safety partners

[Participate in the survey](#) by July 19, 2024. Submit a survey to enter into a drawing for one of 20, \$20 gift cards!

July Listening Sessions

We are planning for two online Listening Sessions to learn from you! The dates for the listening sessions are:

- **Monday, July 22 from 11:30am-1pm**
- **Monday July 29 from 6:30pm-8:00pm**

We will provide a \$50 Safeway gift card to attend if you're not otherwise compensated to attend!

If you want to attend an online listening session or to learn more, complete this [sign up form](#) by July 15, 2024. Sign up ASAP or by July 1 to include additional language or accessibility needs for the meetings.

Updates

[Sign up for our email list here](#) to get directly connected.

Visit our [Cottage Food Operations proposed legislation website](#)

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov.

Timeline

- By July 15, 2024 — Sign up for a listening session
- July 19, 2024—Surveys Close
- July 22 and 29, 2024—Online Community Listening Sessions
- Spring 2025—Finalize proposed changes to state Cottage Food law
- Spring 2025—Finalize [Environmental Justice Assessment](#)
- September 2025—Submit complete proposal for consideration by legislature in January 2026

Resources

- [List of Currently Allowable Cottage Foods](#)
- [How to get a Food Worker Card](#)
- [Food Safety & Foodborne Illness information](#)
- [April 1, 2024 DOH Notification of Environmental Justice Assessment on proposed action](#)
- [Current WA State Department of Agriculture Cottage Food Program](#)



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