

'Heart Bucks' available to help qualified shoppers buy nutritious foods Program available at the Tukwila Village Farmers Market

SEATTLE, Aug. 27, 2020 — Food vouchers called "Heart Bucks" are available this summer for Tukwila Village Farmers Market shoppers in need of food assistance.

The innovative program is the result of collaboration between the <u>American Heart Association</u>, the <u>Food Innovation Network</u>, and the <u>SHAG Community Life Foundation</u> to meet the food security needs of families and seniors, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The three organizations developed a sustainable system to identify food insecurity and created Heart Bucks as a resource to help community members purchase fresh produce. WaFd Bank provided additional funding to help launch the program.

"We've seen how needed these weekly fruits and vegetables are for SHAG residents since we launched Heart Bucks in June and are excited that other Tukwila residents will now have the same opportunity," shared Ken Kramer, program manager, Resident Services, SHAG Community Life Foundation.

Shoppers at the Tukwila Village Farmers Market should visit the SHAG booth at the market to see if they qualify for \$10 food vouchers.

The <u>Tukwila Village Farmers Market</u>, located at the Tukwila Village Plaza, is open Wednesdays from 4:00–7:00 p.m., with an additional hour from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. reserved for shoppers who are over 60 years old or most vulnerable to COVID-19. The market runs until mid-October.

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About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public's health and share lifesaving resources. The Dallas-based organization has been a leading source of health information for nearly a century. Connect with us on heart.org, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

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