



COVID-19 UPDATE

When COVID-19 struck, we transformed our kitchens and redeployed staff to help ensure individuals and families across the Seattle area would not go hungry. FareStart increased meals to reduce food security, moved to virtual training programs and temporarily closed most of our social enterprise businesses.

For the most up-to-date information regarding our [programs](#) and [social enterprises](#), please visit their respective webpage.

FACT SHEET

FareStart is a real solution to some of our society's most pressing challenges—homelessness, joblessness, poverty and hunger. Our model works because we are both an effective social service provider and a thriving social enterprise.

People in poverty struggle to escape the cycle they are in and often face additional compounding barriers to getting and keeping a job. At FareStart, we help people overcome those barriers by teaching them work and life skills they need to succeed in the foodservice industry and in life while providing wraparound support, including housing, mental health support and substance use counseling.

Through our restaurant, cafés, catering and programs that provide meals to social services, shelters and schools, participants in our programs get practical work experience while giving back to their community.

FareStart transforms lives, disrupts poverty and nourishes communities through food, life skills and job training.

Job Training Programs

We have two training programs in the Seattle area:

- **Adult Culinary Program** combines computer skills, culinary training, resume building, individual case management, self-empowerment coaching and job placement services for adults 18 and older. The program provides the tools, training and support to put graduates on the path to employment.
- **Youth & Young Adult Barista Program** is built around the needs of young people 16-24 who are street-involved. The program teaches barista and customer service skills through classroom instruction, job-readiness training, on-the-job experience and job placement support.

Social Enterprise Businesses

Our Seattle restaurant and cafés offer excellent food along with a meaningful dining experience. Here, our students get real-world job experience, while revenue from our social enterprise businesses help fund our programs.

FareStart Restaurant

Our flagship restaurant, which is open weekdays for lunch, is award-winning for both the quality of its cuisine and the impact of its mission. Each Thursday, we host Guest Chef Night, where guests enjoy a three-course gourmet meal prepared by a different guest chef from the community. Private dining available. Home of FareStart's Adult Culinary Program.

Downtown: 700 Virginia St.

FareStart Café

Two cafés that offer coffee, tea and other beverages along with a variety of breakfast and lunch options. Home of FareStart's Youth & Young Adult Barista Program.

South Lake Union: 399 Fairview Ave N - In the lobby of Amazon's Houdini North

Beacon Hill: 1200 12th Ave S - In the lobby of Pacific Tower

Community & School Meals

Continuing and celebrating FareStart's founding mission to serve healthful meals to those who need them, our Community Meals Program provides tasty and nutritious meals for homeless shelters, low-income childcare centers and schools around the Seattle area - 365 days a year. Since 1992, we have prepared more than 14.5 million meals, each made by our students and staff, from scratch, with the freshest possible ingredients.

Consulting

For over 20 years, FareStart has helped organizations across the country increase economic mobility for individuals furthest from opportunity and most affected by poverty, homelessness and food insecurity. Our consultants provide training, resources, technical assistance, and support to nonprofits that share a commitment to reducing poverty and hunger through food-based job training social enterprises.

Our Impact

FareStart has been helping people transform their lives through food for nearly 30 years - one person, one job and one community at a time.

2020 Snapshot of FareStart's Local & National Programs:

- **75% of adult graduates** were hired within 90 days of graduation.
- **61% of adult graduates** retained employment 6-months after graduation.
- **85** individuals graduated from the FareStart's training programs.
- **365** individuals were placed in jobs across all programs.
- **153 graduates** from both FareStart's Youth & Young Adult Barista and Youth Culinary Programs were placed in jobs.

- **13 youth** earned high school credits while enrolled in FareStart programs.
- **2,118,327 emergency meals** were provided to youth and adults experiencing homelessness or poverty through our Community, School & Emergency Meals kitchens.
- Our consulting team has worked with over **250 clients** to help their programs prepare students for gainful employment.
- We have supported organizations across **more than 150 communities** in launching new training programs, scaling existing programs and providing professional development.
- The consulting team has applied our proven curriculum for adult and youth culinary job training programs in **over 44 states and territories** across the country.

Recognitions & Awards

- For the eleventh consecutive year, FareStart has a 4-star rating from **Charity Navigator**, outperforming most other charities in America. (Only 2% of organizations received at least ten consecutive 4-star evaluations.)
- **Better Business Bureau** Accredited Charity
- 2011 **James Beard Foundation** Humanitarian of the Year Award

Boilerplate

About FareStart:

FareStart is a James Beard Award-winning nonprofit organization that transforms lives, disrupts poverty and nourishes communities through food, life skills and job training. FareStart provides hands on training to students through its social enterprise cafés, restaurant, consulting and catering. Since 1992, FareStart has provided opportunities for nearly 13,000 adults and youth, while serving over 14.5 million meals to Seattle area schools, homeless shelters and healthcare facilities. Seventy-five percent of adults who graduate from FareStart gain employment within 90 days of graduation. For more information, visit farestart.org.

Please direct all media inquiries, including interview requests or photographs of staff or students, to: Stephanie Schoo, Marketing & Communications Director, FareStart stephanie.schoo@farestart.org | 206.787.1561