



December 15, 2018

Introduction

In 2006, the Washington State Legislature provided funds for the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to estimate the economic impact of fairs and other fairground activities on the state economy in 2005.

Findings

In 2005 **7.8 million people attend events** held at fairgrounds throughout Washington State **more than the state population** of 6.3 million people (Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2006). By comparison, 4.6 million people visited Seattle Center and approximately 1.2 million attended events at Key Arena in 2005 (Beyers, 2006).

- ❖ Gross economic impact from Washington State fairs and other fairgrounds activities were between **\$350 million and \$385 million** in 2005.
- ❖ Fairs and fairgrounds activities supported between an estimated **5,630 to 5,807 temporary jobs** in 2005 with numerous more volunteer opportunities.
- ❖ Estimated labor income for all jobs related to the fairs is between **\$48 million and \$51 million** in 2005.
- ❖ **Estimated tax revenue** generated by fair and non-fair gross economic activity range between **\$22.7 million and \$25.0 million** in 2005.
- ❖ Fair and fairgrounds activities played a **vital role in fund raising** for many non-profit groups throughout the state.
- ❖ In addition to the economic contribution that fairgrounds provide to the state, they can also **provide a space for emergency services** (The Daily Herald, 2006).

Revenue

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) provides approximately **\$2 million in financial assistance** to agricultural fairs and youth shows each year (**WSDA, 2006**). The **Washington State Fairs Association** was created for mutual benefit of agricultural fairs in the State of Washington and serves its members by promoting fairs across Washington State.

The Washington State Fairs Association was **instrumental in working with the legislature** to obtain this funding, and both WSDA and the Washington State Fairs Association have a vested interest in better understanding the economic impacts and related **tax revenue impacts of fairs and non-fairs activities in the State of Washington**.