



Ensuring Free Postal Delivery

Access to mail is a fundamental service,
not a paid privilege.

01

Historical Gap

No home delivery inside city limits — PO
Boxes became the default

02

A Growing City, an Outdated System

As White Salmon grew, the postal
infrastructure never modernized

03

The Status Quo Today

Residents still pay out-of-pocket for a service that should be free



A System That Requires Residents to Pay for Mail

The Core Problem

Residents **within** White Salmon city limits receive no home delivery. To get their mail, they must rent a PO Box at their own expense.

Meanwhile, residents **outside** city limits receive free home delivery.

Access to mail depends on where you live and whether you can afford it.

One community. Two standards.

What the City Has Done

- Since 2020: partnered with USPS to pursue a Contract Delivery Service (CDS) route
- Invested ARPA funding in cluster boxes and delivery infrastructure planning
- Continued coordination with and advocacy with local and district USPS officials and elected leadership

Current Status & Next Step

The CDS route stalled at the USPS district level. The City is now pursuing R777 designation — which would provide no-fee PO Boxes instead.

An Impact Far Beyond Mail

1

Financial Burden

Residents spend **\$300,000 annually** on PO Box fees. Fees have more than doubled since 2018, hitting seniors and other fixed-income households hardest.

2

Voting & Civic Access

Washington is a Vote-by-Mail state. A mailing address is required to receive a ballot. In White Salmon, residents must effectively **pay to participate in elections.**

3

Health & Safety

Approximately 80% of VA prescriptions are delivered by mail. Mail access supports lower healthcare costs and better outcomes.

4

Equity & Fairness

Two neighbors in the same city receive different levels of federal service. **Mail delivery is a basic right as defined by the Universal Service Obligation**





What Success Looks Like

Free, equitable mail access for every White Salmon resident



Universal Delivery

Every resident receives mail at home, aligned with USPS's Universal Service Obligation



No Barrier to Voting

All residents can receive their ballot without additional cost



Healthcare Access

Prescriptions and health communications reach every household freely



True Equity

One standard of federal service for every member of the community