

Oregon Hunger Task Force

Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Members

Donalda Dodson, Chair
Oregon Child Development Coalition

Liz Adams
OHSU - Child Development & Rehabilitation Center

Lori Beemer
CoActive Connections

Representative Cliff Bentz

Belit Burke
DHS - Children, Adults & Families

Tom Clancey-Burns
Community Action Partnership of Oregon

Senator Betsy Close

Joyce Dougherty
ODE - Child Nutrition Programs

Jonathan Enz, Pastor
Heppner United Methodist Church

Howard Kenyon
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Norene Goplen
Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger

Sally Bowman
OSU - Extension Service

Phillip Kennedy-Wong
Oregon Food Bank - Advocacy

Richard Mathews
Housing and Community Services

Steve Randolph
Oregon Food Bank

Representative Jeff Reardon

Senator Diane Rosenbaum

Cliff Trow
At-Large Member

Phillip Kennedy-Wong
Oregon Food Bank

Sue Woodbury
DHS - Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

Patti Whitney-Wise
Executive Director
712 SE Hawthorne, #202
Portland, OR 97214
Tel: (503) 595-5501x302
Fax: (503) 595-5504
patti@oregonhunger.org
www.oregonhunger.org

To: Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee
From: Robyn Johnson, Public Policy Manager
Re: HB 4090 – Out-of-School Time Meal Support Grants
Date: February 18, 2014 **Position: Support**

The Oregon Hunger Task Force supports HB 4090, which will allow existing state-allocated grant funds to support new after school meal sites to also be used to support the creation of new summer meal sites across Oregon. This bill also increases the allowable grant amount to \$20,000.

We can all agree that good nutrition is essential for Oregon's children to be healthy, ready to learn and succeed in school and life. Unfortunately, over half of all Oregon students must rely on free or reduced price meals at school get the food they need. School meals fill a big need during the day and for children whose families are struggling to put food on the table, the federally funded At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program (known as the After School Meal and Snack Program in Oregon) and the Summer Food Service Program provide meals in after school enrichment settings during the school year, and in parks, community centers and libraries during summer breaks.

Unfortunately, not all Oregon children and youth have access to meal programs. School districts and community organizations often need help with an initial investment to begin offering meals. In most cases, the federal reimbursement is sufficient to cover the price of food once a program is up and running, but the upfront cost of necessary equipment, staffing and outreach can be prohibitive.

We know that providing support for these programs in the form of grants increases the number of meal sites for children. For several years Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon has made grants to support summer food programs around the state. In 2013, through private funds, 22 new summer meal sites were started that served 2,142 more children each day. This leveraged nearly \$225,000 in federal funds and supported the creation of 28 new jobs.

HB 4090 will help address childhood hunger and supports our economy by ensuring that our children and youth are getting nutritious food when school is out, which supports their health and keeps them ready to learn. On behalf of the Oregon Hunger Task Force, I urge your support for this bill.

HB 4090: Summer meal program start-up and expansion grants

The addition of summer food program to existing start-up and expansion grants will provide good nutrition to more children and youth over summer breaks.



Summer meals help our students and our state. We all want Oregon's students to be healthy, active and ready to learn when they return to school. Good nutrition is essential to achieving that.

The federally funded Summer Food Service Program provides meals to children and youth in low-income areas.

- **Summer meals help reduce hunger** and increases availability of healthy meals during summer breaks.
- Programs only operate in school areas where 50 percent or more children are eligible for free or reduced price meals at school.
- **In 2013, nearly two million summer meals were served to children** and youth in high need areas.
- Summer meals **generate millions of dollars in economic activity and hundreds of jobs** for school districts and Oregon business.
- Lack of funding limits programs from starting and expanding.

HB 4090

- Allows the Oregon Department of Education to increase grant level to \$20,000 to for sponsor grantees and adds summer program sponsors to allowable grantee list.
- Increases the availability of nutritious meals to more kids during the summer.
- Supports job growth in Oregon communities.
- The grant program is currently funded through an existing appropriation.

For more information:
Robyn Johnson, Public Policy Manager
503-740-0516, robyn@oregonhunger.org

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www.oregonhunger.org

Let's Celebrate



Summer Meals

11%

more kids fed by programs we helped!

Preventing child hunger

Summer brings a high risk of hunger for hundreds of thousands of children. Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon helps connect more kids with free, healthy meals when school is out. Here's what happened in 2013 as a direct result of our grants and assistance.

Impact of our summer meal support



2,142

children were fed each day



64,835

meals were served



22

new meal sites were started



28

new jobs were created

Well nourished kids are more ready to learn

Private Grants distributed

\$43,473

With private donations we gave 17 grants to organizations helping to feed children in the summer.



Federal dollars leveraged

\$224,977

For each healthy lunch served, local organizations received \$3.47 of sustainable USDA reimbursement.

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Learn more at www.oregonhunger.org