



Proportion of SNAP recipients

# Prosperity 1000

## HB 4042: Oregon’s Solution to Pressing Workforce and Poverty Concerns in the Portland Metro Area

Legislation to invest \$5 million to **address poverty** caused by a reduction in middle-income employment resulting in **50% match in federal funding** for training and jobs and establishing a **sustainable system** within Oregon’s public workforce system that supports individual and business prosperity.

### The Problem

- 1) Squeezed out middle class— Structural changes in Oregon’s economy have increased low-income employment, widening economic disparity and disproportionately affecting immigrants and people of color. This crisis is most accelerated in Portland Metro area; East Multnomah County and the City of Hillsboro have the highest concentrations of poverty in the state.
- 2) Increasing poverty— In the new economy, marked by increasing income polarization, “average” economic measures obscure the current poverty crisis. 600,000 Oregonians live in poverty and Portland has the third highest rate of people receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of any major metro area, following only Detroit and Miami.
- 3) Shortage of skilled workers— Employers grapple with a shortage of skilled labor to drive productivity and growth while unskilled residents struggle with insufficient, stagnating wages.
- 4) Significant cuts in Federal Funding— The coming years will be marked by cuts to federal employment and training, anti-poverty and related support programs, reducing the state’s ability to meaningfully address poverty, inequity, and skill shortages

### The Solution

Prosperity 1000 will generate investment into the Portland Metro Area through the WorkSource Oregon SNAP 50/50 program which leverages a 50% federal match for training and employment services provided to SNAP recipients.

Address growing poverty caused by declining middle-income employment, through skill development and career-track employment in targeted sectors that have quality jobs and shortages of skilled labor

Restore federal funding by evoking a 50% match in federal funding for training and jobs

Pilot a sustainable system within the public workforce system that supports individual and business prosperity

This investment will support a pilot to establish the program infrastructure, key partnerships, and implementation of a federal matching program that will support Oregon’s public workforce development system and *address poverty long after Prosperity 1000*.

### The Outcome

1000 Oregonians experiencing poverty will receive occupational training and job placement into target industries with 75% earning \$15/hour or more.

### Actions to Take:

1) **Champion HB 4042: Prosperity 1000**

2) **Support HB 4042: Prosperity 1000**

For more information, contact Representative Jeff Reardon at [rep.jeffreardon@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.jeffreardon@oregonlegislature.gov) / 503-986-1448 or

Patrick Gihring at [pgihring@worksystems.org](mailto:pgihring@worksystems.org) / 503-478-7320.

*This investment will provide the opportunity for vulnerable Oregonians to fully participate in the Portland Metro Area’s growing economic success by addressing persistent and concentrated poverty through training and career-track employment.*