

December 10, 2020

Governor Kate Brown  
House Speaker Tina Kotek  
House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner  
House Republican Leader Christine Drazan  
Senate President Peter Courtney  
Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner  
Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod  
Members of the Joint Emergency Board

OREGON  
FOOD BANK  
NETWORK



Oregon Food Bank and the Oregon Food Bank Network and other allies are currently doing everything that we can to meet the food security needs across the state in response to Covid-19 since March. We are committed first and foremost to the health and safety of our community – to our clients, volunteers and the broader food stream. Our best options include leveraging, resourcing and streamlining access to systems that already exist.

Our statewide network is 20 Regional Food Banks and 1,400 food distribution sites strong and was greatly helped in our initial pandemic response by the \$8 million by the state (\$2m from Oregon with a \$6m reimbursement from FEMA) we received in April, May and June this past year. It allowed us to purchase an additional 10.2 million pounds of food with 2.7 million of those pounds purchased directly in our communities across the Oregon Food Bank Network.

Since March, food insecurity and requests for emergency food have increased significantly since the beginning of COVID. Across Oregon, we are seeing increases in access to emergency food from the beginning of the year from 15% to more than double. Oregon State University has estimated that since the pandemic has started, we have seen the rate of food insecurity in Oregon double. More than 1 out of every 6 Oregonians is food insecure.

At the same time, food supply chains for the emergency food system through public and private partnerships have been inconsistent. Already this year, 1.9m pounds of food through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP, the main emergency food program of USDA) have been cancelled or delayed.

Even if January brings a second Federal stimulus package, the food bank system will continue to play a central role in response and stabilization efforts for the pandemic and economy.

In order to respond to increased requests for food and disruptions to the supply chains of emergency food and allow for additional local purchasing: Oregon Food Bank (OFB) and the Oregon Food Bank Network would like to request **\$5.8m in funding for the purchasing of 7.6m lbs of emergency food to be used between now and May 30, 2020.**

Thank you for your leadership at this critical time,

Susannah Morgan  
Oregon Food Bank

Amy Powers  
Washington County Services, Oregon Food  
Bank

Casey Wheeler  
Columbia Pacific Food Bank

Auzeen Rasaie  
Metro Services (Multnomah and Clackamas  
County), Oregon Food Bank

Marcee Champion  
ACCESS, Jackson County

Tom Mulhern  
FOOD for Lane County

Rick Gaupo  
Marion-Polk Food Share

Audrey Smith  
Community Connection of Northeast  
Oregon

Kim Collins  
Josephine County Food Bank

Dusten Martin  
Clatsop Community Action Regional Food  
Bank

Carly Sanders  
NeighborImpact

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Food Share of Lincoln County

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