

February 1st, 2019

The Honorable Betsy Johnson
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
The Honorable Dan Rayfield
Co-Chairs of the Joint Ways & Means Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

Dear Co-Chairs:

REQUEST: ROLL-UP OF ONE TIME FUNDS IN HUNGER PROGRAMS FOR 2019-21

Oregon is making progress in reducing hunger. Last fall, when the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) annual food insecurity statistics were released, Oregon was closer to the national average than it has been in the last 15 years. But this progress is tenuous. Even as unemployment rates have dropped, the number of clients the Oregon Food Bank Network serves is increasing. Recent data from the Oregon Food Bank Network show patterns of food access similar to those we saw in 2009. We hope this is not a harbinger of recession – but we are planning for an ever shifting environment. We anticipate policy instability at the federal level and a potential recession will impact food security in our state in the next biennium.

This is why Oregon Food Bank is asking to roll-up one-time funds in three specific hunger programs for the 2019-21 biennium: Oregon Hunger Response Fund, Farm Direct Nutrition WIC, and Farm Direct Nutrition Seniors. (See the table attached for more details.)

Shifts in federal policy in the past twelve months have already created conditions necessitating funding at 2017-2019 levels. Responding to market fluctuations and trade tension, USDA is purchasing significant quantities of food to support American farmers. Much of this nutritious food is highly perishable. Across the Oregon Food Bank Network, this unexpected bounty—beginning in late 2018 and expected to flow at least through the end of 2019—has put unexpected pressures on the food bank network infrastructure, resulting in immediate investments in additional refrigeration and freezers, transportation capacity and adaptive client services. The increased availability of nutritious food is only as good as our ability to effectively collect, store and quickly distribute it to people in need.

Concurrently, during the recent partial government shutdown, the Oregon Food Bank Network experienced an increase of first-time clients seeking support. We know SNAP recipients will experience a gap in coverage at the end of February (due to early release of benefits as a result of the shut-down). We expect this too will result in new first-time clients turning to food pantries to bridge the gap. For Oregonians experiencing hunger, it doesn't matter if the conditions causing their food insecurity are the result of policy decisions or natural disaster. The Oregon Food Bank Network has to be ready to respond to both. We have been there during fire season. We have been there during the shut-down. We will be there during the SNAP gap. To date, the Oregon Food Bank Network has stretched existing staff, equipment and facilities to address these increases in need. **Oregon's historic investments in state wide food assistance infrastructure have paid off, they have delivered resilience and responsive programing in the face of these short-term fluctuations.**

The consequences of recent federal action are still unfolding and will undoubtedly reverberate throughout Oregon's economy for some time. The partial government shut-down has shaken confidence in the federal government and raised the specter of more shut-downs in the future. Numerous economists predict a recession in the near future. The Oregon Food Bank Network, like the Oregon legislature, is still building an understanding of the challenges these reverberations will bring. Additionally, the federal administration is attempting to chip away at SNAP eligibility through rule-making. Public Charge and ABAWD waivers being

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Ontario, OR 97914
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Columbia Gorge
Food Bank
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The Dalles, OR 97058
541-370-2333



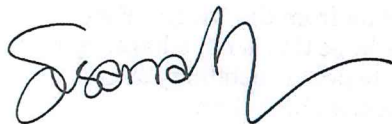
oregonfoodbank.org

two recent examples. Because federal nutrition programs are the single most effective bulwark against hunger, even slight shifts in eligibility will significantly impact hunger rates in Oregon communities.

Given the increased pressures on the Oregon Food Bank Network to respond to these emergencies, please authorize the Joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee to take the necessary actions to roll-up \$2.5 million in one-time funds when it considers the Dept. of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority 2019-21 base budgets.

There's more that can be done to contain hunger in Oregon. We are committed to weathering both the known and unknown repercussions of the current political and economic moment. We ask that you collaborate with us by continuing one-time funds to support these critical anti-hunger programs. And we look forward to further conversation as we assess additional consequences of the shut-down. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susannah Morgan
CEO, Oregon Food Bank



Audrey Smith
Chair, Oregon Food Bank Network Advocacy Committee
Union County Manager and Regional Food Bank Manager
Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc.

- cc The Honorable Rob Nosse, Co-Chair Joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee
- The Honorable Lee Beyer, Co-Chair Joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee
- The Honorable Cedric Hayden, Joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee
- The Honorable Sheri Schouten, Joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee
- The Honorable Duane Stark, Joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee
- The Honorable Andrea Salinas, Joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee
- The Honorable Rob Wagner, Joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee
- The Honorable Dallas Heard, Joint Ways & Means Human Services Subcommittee
- The Honorable Peter Courtney, Senate President
- The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House
- Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office
- Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office
- Kim Fredlund, Dept. of Human Services
- Sue Woodbury, Oregon Health Authority

Attachment: TABLE - ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS REQUESTS FOR 2019-21 BUDGET

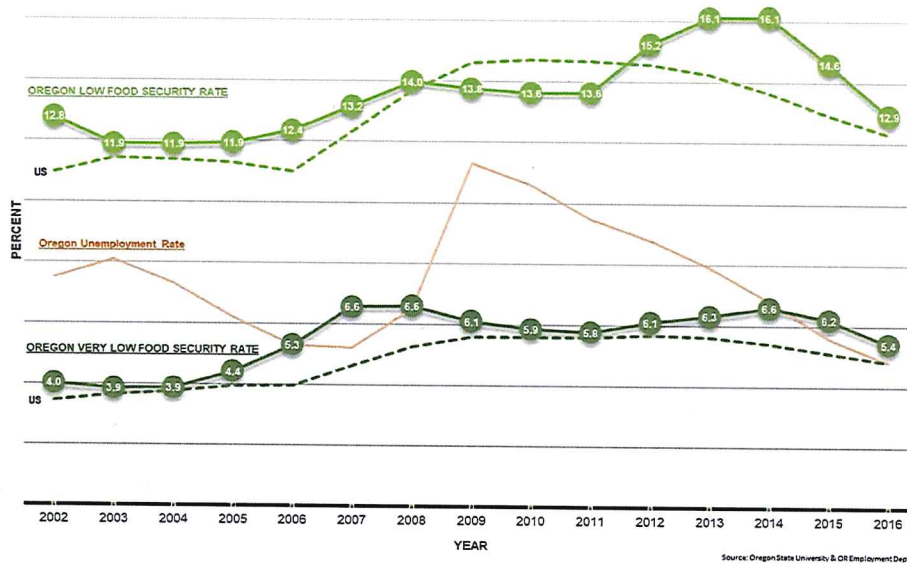
TABLE - ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS REQUESTS FOR 2019-21 BUDGET

| ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAM | STATE AGENCY | 2017-19 ADOPTED | | 2019-21 BUDGET PROPOSED | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | Budget | One-time | Governor's Recommended | REQUESTED AMOUNT w/ one-time funds |
| OR Hunger Response Fund | DHS | \$2.9 million | \$1.3 million | \$2.9 million | \$4.2 million requested |
| Farm Direct Nutrition: Low-Income Seniors | OHA | \$86,888 | \$200,000 | \$6,025 | \$286,888 requested |
| Farm Direct Nutrition: WIC Families | OHA | \$227,421 | \$1,000,000 | \$262,598 | \$1,227,421 requested |



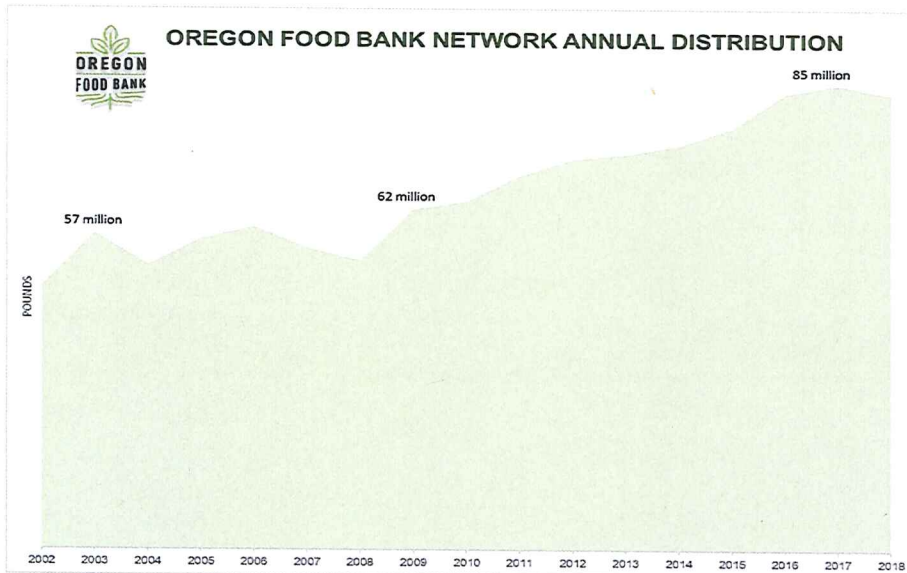
Hunger in Oregon through the years

OREGON FOOD INSECURITY & UNEMPLOYMENT



OREGON HUNGER RATES HIGHLIGHTS

| | VERY LOW | LOW |
|------------------------|----------|-------|
| HOUSING STATUS | | |
| Renters | 12.5% | 27.7% |
| Owners | 1.1% | 4.7% |
| HOUSEHOLD TYPE | | |
| Single mothers | 13.5% | 34% |
| Two parents | 1.5% | 10% |
| GEOGRAPHY | | |
| Rural | 6.9% | 12.5% |
| Urban | 5.3% | 13% |
| RACE | | |
| White | 5.4% | 12.2% |
| Hispanic | 7.2% | 28.8% |
| Black | 11.4% | 28.1% |
| American Indian | 14.1% | 31% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 6% | 14.4% |



OREGON FOOD BANK NETWORK

2018 Food Sources:
 46% Other Donated (food industry, local sourcing)
 20% Grocery Stores Recovery
 15% USDA
 10% Food Drives/Individuals
 9% Purchased

Distribution Facilities
 20 Regional Food Banks
 1200 partner agencies

**260,000/month
 Individuals Served**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Hunger is a problem we can solve. Hunger is the result of exclusion, of not having enough – not having food, not enough income, enough power, and enough representative voice. Oregon Food Bank's work is informed by an understanding that root causes are byproducts of social systems that impede access to the basic needs that sustain life which include food, shelter, health, economic security, and human dignity regardless of identity including race and gender.

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