



Oregon Coast Community Action

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February 18, 2019

The Honorable Betsy Johnson
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
The Honorable Dan Rayfield
Co-Chairs of the Joint Ways & Means Committee
900 Court St. SE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

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

South Coast Food Share, the Regional Foodbank that services all cities within Coos and Curry Counties, wishes to ask to roll-up one-time fund levels of 2017-19 into the 2019-21 budget for these specific programs: Oregon Hunger Response Fund, DHS Farm Direct Nutrition: WIC Families, and Farm Direct Nutrition: Low Income Seniors.

As with all things, servicing the food needs within a community is an ever-changing process. The needs of any given community fluctuate with economic change. As unemployment decreases, a person could easily draw the conclusion that the need for food banks would decrease with it. Recent data collected does not reflect this. The working force are affected by a lack of affordable housing, low-wage and or seasonal jobs, and an increasing cost of healthcare, making it more difficult to be able to afford food. These same individuals and families will earn too much to qualify for the SNAP benefits now that they are able to work. Our pantries fill a critical need to the working individuals just as much as those who are unable to work.

"This food bank is invaluable to my survival. I am blessed to have such beautiful people in my community"- Meuw a homeless kid

In our service area of approximately 83,915 people, 17.3% live with financial means below 100% of the federal poverty level. 7.4% of our service area lives in a household with income below 50% of the federal poverty level. Nearly 29% of those people are children. 44.4% of our service area's senior population is disabled and 20.7% of the age demographic of 18-64 years of age are also disabled. Food banks will be needed more than ever to support these vulnerable groups of people whose incomes are fixed.

"My disability doesn't cover the cost of living"- anonymous food bank client



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Several events have occurred of late, which change the outlook of how we do business in the future:

In light of the recent temporary government shutdown, we saw an increase to the use of our services, not just by those who had never needed to use a food bank before and suddenly found themselves without an income, but our regular clientele came to us more frequently. This was likely the result of the shift in the dispersal of SNAP benefits. It affected how our clientele budgeted their food dollars causing many to be spent out early and increasing their access to emergency food services seeking aid.

Although we do understand that a shutdown like this was not only temporary, but uncommon, it did show us what even a small lapse in income and support can do to impact our region as a whole. The conclusion is that we are needed more than ever, to be operating at full capacity, and to be able to respond when sudden, emergent community needs arise.

Amidst a recent trade deal, the USDA is purchasing a large quantity of perishable food to support American farmers. Though we appreciate the abundance of food that this has been able to provide our region, it has put pressure on us and our food distribution agencies to be able to store this perishable food long enough for it to be given to clients for consumption. Supportive funding such as Oregon Hunger Relief funds allow us to purchase equipment items for them, such as shelving, freezers and refrigerators to support this need. This not only builds their food distribution capacity but also helps maintain integral food safety.

In the past, we have utilized the Oregon Hunger Response Funds to support our partners with expansions to food distribution capacity; To support the collection of donations throughout our region; To support outreach and education around food safety and creative recipes and to develop a means to coordinate services with other entities that provide also provide services for those experiencing economic instability.

Moving forward, we here at South Coast Food Share are committed to the goal of closing the hunger gap in our community for good. We know that good healthy food promotes wellness, and wellness reduces the strain on the medical professionals, because wholesome food is the easiest preventative medicine that exists.

*“Was a homeless vet and you kept me alive. The community warmth is amazing.
Brought together with food. Thank you.” -E-4*



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We implore you to authorize the Ways and Means Subcommittee to do what is necessary to roll-up the \$2.5 million in one-time funds when it considers the Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority 2019-21 budgets. Without this fund roll-up, the consequences will be a considerable loss for our food bank. We will lose the \$65,000 gained with the initial \$1.3 million which will negatively impact our workforce and our capacity to distribute food to our region's most vulnerable constituents.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing support of anti-hunger programs.

Sincerely,

Laura Hunter
SCFS Program and Operations Director
Oregon Coast Community Action

Mike Lehman
Executive Director
Oregon Coast Community Action

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
Senator Arnie Roblan
Representative Caddy McKeown
Representative David Brock Smith

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



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

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