

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 25: Oregon Department of Human Services Oregon Food Bank

To: Emergency Board Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Fahey

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$5 million General Fund from a special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for the Oregon Department of Human Services to distribute to the Oregon Food Bank for emergency food assistance.

The number of individuals and families seeking emergency food assistance remains significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels - with 1.2 million to 1.3 million visits each quarter to pantries, free food markets and meal sites. Although the Legislature has provided additional funding to meet the increased demand for emergency food supplies in recent years, the Oregon Food Bank is experiencing higher than expected food costs due to inflation and a significant reduction in food donations. OFB estimates an additional \$5 million will support the purchase of approximately five million pounds of food needed to maintain emergency food supplies through the end of the biennium.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.