



PO Box 1920 • Corvallis OR 97339 • 541-758-2609 • [www.linnbentonfoodshare.org](http://www.linnbentonfoodshare.org)

*...dedicated to eliminating hunger in Linn and Benton Counties*

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

Dear Co-Chairs:

REQUEST: Please make \$4.56 million the new base budget for the Oregon Hunger Response Fund in the Oregon Department of Human Services budget for the 2021-2023 biennium by rolling up the 2019-2021 one-time funds.

Access to healthy food is important to all our communities. The investments by the State of Oregon in anti-hunger programs is crucial to ensuring that “everybody eats.”

Past investments through the Oregon Hunger Response Fund have strengthened Linn Benton Food Share’s ability to respond to community needs. It is without doubt that 2020 posed the most unique challenges to the food bank network in our history of service. Combining the tests of the Covid-19 pandemic with disastrous forest fires put our communities on edge. Yet, Linn Benton Food Share and the OFB Network were up to the task, ensuring emergency food and other services were consistently delivered to our neighbors in need since day one of these challenges.

Our response to Covid-19 necessitated wholesale changes to the operations of Linn Benton Food Share and our local network of emergency food providers. The cost of doing food-banking has increased substantially from a logistical and safety-protocol level as well as the cost of food acquisition. Through it all, the funding provided by the State of Oregon has been the bedrock of our new approach. As a result, we are serving harder to reach populations, increased our delivery throughout our service area, increased the nutritional makeup of the foods on offer and continue to engage our volunteer network to serve all those that need help.



*Linn Benton Food Share is a department of Community Services Consortium  
and a member of the Oregon Food Bank network*





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As a result of these challenges and the OFB network’s proven track record in providing essential help to all those in need, Linn Benton Food Share respectfully requests the same level of funding as the 2019-2021 biennium by calculating one-time funds as part of the base budget for the 2021-2023 biennium for the programs listed below.

<u>ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS</u>	<u>STATE AGENCY</u>	<u>2021-23 BUDGET</u>	
		<u>Governor's Recommended</u>	<u>REQUESTED w/ one-time funding included</u>
<b>OR Hunger Response Fund</b>	<u>ODHS</u>	<b>\$2.9 million</b>	<b><u>\$4.56 million</u></b>

The combined efforts of the State of Oregon and the Oregon Food Bank Network has created more caring communities throughout Oregon. We can do even more together, demonstrating the power of food to unite our communities in this crucial fight against hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan McCambridge  
 Director  
 Linn Benton Food Share

- Cc    The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House  
       The Honorable Peter Courtney, Senate President  
       The Honorable Mike Nearman  
       The Honorable Brian Boquist  
       The Honorable Sara Gelser  
       The Honorable Shelly Boshart-Davis  
       The Honorable Fred Girod  
       The Honorable Lee Beyer  
       The Honorable Marty Wilde



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