



535 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street | Newport Or. 97365  
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March 29, 2021

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 97391

**Re: Roll-up Funding Request for 2021-23**

Dear Senators & Representatives,

Food Share of Lincoln County, a regional food bank of the Oregon Food Bank Statewide Network, is asking to 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.

Job loss, wage loss, and a depletion of savings have pushed many families deeper into poverty and forced others to seek food assistance for the very first time. These funds are **critical** in serving families in our coastal communities of Lincoln County. As we have seen the need for food assistance exploding, we have also had to quickly overhaul our operations to implement social distancing protocols that keep our clients, volunteers, and staff safe while increasing our food distribution.

Since our communities began sheltering in place, Food Share of Lincoln County has been on the front line every day, ensuring that anyone who needs nutritious food can get it. Upon notice of Lincoln County's large workplace Covid-19 outbreak, our food bank became a primary food source for over 120 quarantined families. Partnerships with local government and community organizations enabled a rapid response to provide food boxes, meet specific dietary needs, and implement delivery to those in quarantine and unable to access food. During the Echo Mountain fire evacuation, we sprang into action with an immediate provision of nutritious food for the displaced families, many of whom will experience more severe need levels in the coming year.

Program recipients have shared their stories with us, such as, **"I am a disabled senior with MS & diabetes, and couldn't eat properly without your help."** Or **"Food Share makes the difference of us being able to make it through the month because our medical expenses are so high."** Our outreach programs provide help and hope to those affected by health challenges, unemployment, lack of affordable housing, and low-wage/seasonal jobs in Lincoln County.

Food Share of Lincoln County relies on Oregon Hunger Response funds to leverage every available food resource and collaborate with organizations and people who share our belief that hunger is unacceptable. These partners provide a range of services to our culturally diverse community and include soup kitchens, pantries, shelters, schools, senior centers, housing authorities, medical clinics, and more.

Oregon Food Bank Network respectfully requests the same funding level 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>
OR Hunger Response Fund	<u>ODHS</u>	\$2.9 million	<u>\$4.56 million</u>

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Nancy Mitchell  
 Executive Director  
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Cc: Peter Courtney, Senate President  
 Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House  
 Dick Anderson, State Senator  
 David Gomberg, State Representative