

# The Oregon **Food Bank** Network of Regional **Food Banks**

#### **Serving Oregon and Clark** County, Washington

What is the status of hunger in Oregon and southwest Washington? How did the n Food Bank Network of K. Jonal Food Banks respond to the tremendous demand for emergency food in 2010-11?

At the end of each fiscal year, Oregon Food Bank compiles the annual service statistics of the Oregon Food Bank Network of Regional Food Banks. Data for 2010-11 paint a grim picture.

"I have never seen the demand for emergency food this high," said Rachel Bristol, CEO, Oregon Food Bank. "Joblessness is taking a tremendous toll on our families."



FIRST TIME EVER: Distribution of emergency food boxes 

For the first time ever, distribution of emergency food boxes in Oregon and southwest Washington topped 1 million as growing levels of long-term unemployment forced more and more people to fall into poverty and to seek emergency food.

2012 SESSION S DATE: 2 - 16 -

EXHIBIT: MEASURE

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The Oregon Food Bank Network of 20 reg food banks and partner food pantries provic A RECORD 1.024.000 EMERGENCY FO to families in need from July 1, 2010, to June

#### That's a 12 percent increase over the previous year.



FISCAL YEAR

Since the beginning of the recession, emergency food box distribution increased 29 percent. During the past fiscal year, the OFB Network distributed almost a quarter of a million more emergency food boxes than it did three years ago - before the recession.

A typical emergency food box contains a three-to-five day supply of groceries. On average, recipient households turn to pantries less than four times a year.

## How much food did the Oregon Food Bank Network move?

The Oregon Food Bank Network of 20 regional food banks and 923 partner agencies and programs received a record 81 million pounds of food for distribution from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011.



## Where did the food come from?

The OFB Network was only able to meet the staggering demand for emergency food due to record levels of U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities and the tremendous generosity of the entire community: individuals, groups and businesses.

USDA commodities increased from 10 million to 18 million pounds with the help of stimulus funds, strong support from Oregon's congressional delegation and USDA efforts to support American farmers and ranchers through bonus buys of agricultural products.

The OFB Network expects a different picture in 2011-12. Stimulus funding has ended. And OFB anticipates a 30 percent decline in USDA commodities.



Food industry donations 49% 23% USDA 15% Food drives Purchased 13%

#### Oregon's hiring rate stalls, keeping Oregon's unemployment rate high

Joblessness took a tremendous toll on families. Hiring stalled, keeping Oregon's unemployment rate high,



**13%** of oregon children have at least one unemployed parent, RANKING THE STATE THIRD-WORST NATIONALLY.

## More people seek emergency food

In an average month, an estimated **260,000 PEOPLE** in Oregon and Clark County, Wash.,

ate meals from emergency food boxes during the past year.

#### those, almost 86,000 were children.

That compares to an estimated 200,000 people in an average month in 2007-08, before the Great Recession.

In addition, soup kitchens served **3.9 million meals** during the past year. And **98,000 people received supplemental food** through other OFB Network agencies and programs.

#### More people fell into poverty

Unemployment wasn't the only bad news. Low wages and limited benefits forced even people with jobs to seek emergency food. As a result of increased unemployment and underemployment, poverty increased significantly:

# 535,000 OREGONIANS live below the poverty rate.



<sup>2007-08 2009-10</sup> Source: 2009-10 U.S. Census

That means 25,000 more Oregonians fell into poverty from 2009 to 2010.



By the broadest measure of unemployment,

1 in 5 Oregon workers was unemployed in 2010

The underemployment rate, the broadest measure of unemployment, includes workers who have accepted a part-time job even though they would prefer to work full-time. It also includes "discouraged" workers, who would like to work but are not actively job hunting.

# Standard unemployment rate

Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data, courtesy Oregon Center for Public Policy

#### Income gap remains wide

Real income change for Oregon households, 1979-2009

2009 average adjusted gross income

Lowest fifth: \$4,702 Middle fifth: \$30,661 Top fifth: \$139,218 Top 1%: \$634,902

Source: Oregon Center for Public Policy analysis of Oregon Department of Revenue data



20%

11%

#### Hunger hurts our communities

Hunger hurts the health, productivity and potential of families, children, seniors and those who are disabled.

'dren experience hunger and poverty at disproportionately high rates.

252,510 children aren't always sure where their next meal is coming from.

Almost half of all Oregon's school-age kids qualify for free-and-reduced-price meals.



OREGON IS THE STATE WITH THE HIGHEST CHILD FOOD INSECURITY RATE.

#### Volunteers vital to fighting hunger

Throughout the OFB Network, volunteers donated

# 2,152,000 hours

Equivalent to

1,075 full-time émployees

Estimated value:

\$36 million

Of that total, Oregon Food Bank volunteers donated

# 120,000 hours

Equivalent to

## 60 full-time employees

Estimated value:

\$2 million

# Hunger Factors Assessment: VHO NEEDS EMERGENCY FOOD? WHY?

The Oregon Food Bank Network of Regional Food Banks conducts the Hunger Factors Assessment (HFA) every two years to learn the factors that create the need for food assistance.

In 2010, more than 160 emergency food pantries distributed the survey to food-box recipients during a two-week period in April. OFB analyzed 4,360 completed surveys. Here are some of the key results:



#### The poorest of the poor get poorer



*i* recipient households had incomes below the federal poverty level (\$22,050 for a family of four). That compares to 67% in 2008.



of households had incomes below 50% of the federal poverty level (\$11,025 for a family of four).



of households had at least one worker, compared to 46% in 2008. Of households with a worker, 42% fell below the federal poverty level.



Source: Hunger Factors Assessment, 2010

## Unemployment forces more people to seek emergency food

**OUR MISSION:** 

To eliminate hunger and its root causes

... because no one should be HUNGRY



Source: Hunger Factors Assessment, 2010

25% of households had at least one full-time worker. That compares to 30% in 2008.

**37%** of households with children had at least one full-time worker, compared to 43% in 2008.

of adult recipients work full time, compared to 21% in 2008.

28% of adult recipients are unemployed and looking for work, compared to 20% in 2008.

of surveyed households listed long-term unemployment as the reason they sought emergency food. That compares to 22% in 2008 at the beginning of the recession.

#### Families worry about next meal



That compares to 27% in 2008. OF THOSE, 37% DO THIS ALMOST EVERY MONTH, compared to 30% in 2008.

Source: Hunger Factors Assessment, 2010



76% OF HOUSEHOLDS WORRY AT LEAST SOMETIMES ABOUT HOW THEY WILL GET THEIR NEXT MEAL. That compares to 69% in 2008. The OFB Network of Regional Food Banks OREGON FOOD BANK

#### Operated by Oregon Food Bank

OFB Metro Services Portland

OFB Southeast Oregon Services Ontario

OFB Tillamook Services Tillamook

OFB Washington County Services Beaverton

#### **Independent food banks**

CCA Regional Food Bank Astoria

South Coast Food Share Coos Bay

Linn-Benton Food Share Corvallis

FOOD for Lane County Eugene

Josephine County Food Bank Grants Pass

Klamath/Lake Counties Food Bank Klamath Falis

Community Connection La Grande

Yamhill Regional Food Bank McMinnville

ACCESS Food Share Medford

Food Share of Lincoln County Newport

CAPECO Food Share Pendleton

NeighborImpact Redmond

UCAN Food Bank Roseburg

Marion-Polk Food Share Salem

Columbia Pacific Food Bank St. Helens

Mid-Columbia Community Action Council The Dalles

