



February 15, 2019

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

The UCAN Food Bank, a regional food bank serving Douglas County, is asking to roll-up one-time funds in three specific hunger programs for the 2019-21 biennium: Oregon Hunger Response Fund, Farm Direct Nutrition WIC, and Farm Direct Nutrition Seniors. (See the table below for more details.)

As you may realize, Oregon is making progress in reducing hunger. Last fall, when the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) annual food insecurity statistics were released, Oregon was closer to the national average than it has been in the last 15 years. But this progress is tenuous and isn't necessarily indicative of what is happening statewide. Here in Douglas County, we are still well above the national average for people experiencing food insecurity and while it is improving, it is a very slow process and instability at the federal level will certainly impact food insecurity in the next biennium.

Shifts in federal policy in the past twelve months have already created conditions necessitating funding at 2017-2019 levels. Responding to market fluctuations and trade tension, USDA is purchasing significant quantities of food to support American farmers. Much of this nutritious food is highly perishable. Here in Douglas County, this unexpected bounty—beginning in late 2018 and expected to flow at least through the end of 2019—has been some a welcome gift to us, unfortunately, it has also put unexpected pressures on the food bank network infrastructure, resulting in immediate investments in additional refrigeration and freezers, transportation capacity and adaptive client services. The increased availability of nutritious food is only as good as our ability to effectively collect, store and quickly distribute it to people in need.

There's more that can be done to contain hunger in Oregon. We are doing great work, but we don't want to go backwards. UCAN and all of the Oregon Food Bank Network are committed to weathering both the known and unknown repercussions of the current political and economic moment. We ask that you collaborate with us by continuing one-time funds to support these critical anti-hunger programs and roll-up \$2.5 million in one-time funds when it considers the Dept. of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority 2019-21 base budgets. And we look forward to

further conversation as we assess additional consequences of the shut-down. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah McGregor  
 Food Bank Manager  
 United Community Action Network

- 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 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

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

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