

I am the Executive Director for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank which is the regional food bank for Columbia County.

I am writing to ask that you 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.

These funds are crucial in supporting our efforts in fighting hunger in Columbia County comprising approximately 25% of our budget over the past two years. These funds help support the procurement and distribution of a range of 16-19 tons of food a week throughout our county to over 30 different distribution points. We currently are serving 1 in every 5 individuals in Columbia County. During the height of the pandemic this was 1 in every 4 individuals.

Rather than burdening you with statistics, I am happy to speak with any of you about the vital roll these funds play in our operation.

Casey Wheeler
Executive Director
Columbia Pacific Food Bank