

## **Clatsop Community Action**

364 9th Street ~ Astoria Oregon 97103 Phone (503) 325-1400 ~ Fax (503) 325-1153 Website: <u>www.ccaservices.org</u>

## **CCA Regional Food Bank**

2010 SE Chokeberry Ave ~ Warrenton, OR 97146 (503) 861-FOOD (3663) ~ Fax (503) 861-9618 ...because no one should be hungry



03/29/2021

Senator Betsy Johnson 900 Court Street, NE, S-209 Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Johnson:

Clatsop Community Action (CCA) strongly supports making \$4,560,000 the new base budget for the Oregon Hunger Response Fund. This fund is within the Oregon Department of Human Services budget for the 2021-2023 biennium and entails rolling up 2019-2021 one-time funds. We understand the urgency and critical need for this financial support at CCA, because we have the only Regional Food Bank serving Clatsop County, and we are a member of the Oregon Food Bank Network.

The Oregon Hunger Response Fund is crucial for funding emergency food operations in Clatsop County, helping to ensure that the CCA Regional Food Bank (RFB) can keep trucks rolling and distributing food throughout the county. This funding also helps to pay warehouse utility bills and employee salaries—employees at the RFB who work tirelessly to acquire and distribute food to all those in need throughout Clatsop County.

The CCA Regional Food Bank (RFB) distributed over 23,000 boxes of food and fresh produce throughout Clatsop County in the last fiscal year through the RFB's local distribution network. The RFB also sent nearly 12,000 backpacks filled with food home for children and provided food that served nearly 80,000 meals in shelters and senior meal sites. The CCA RFB distributed a total of over 1.5 million pounds of food during the last fiscal year.

Our mission is to help people meet housing, food, and other basic living needs

The Oregon Hunger Response Fund helps make this possible—your support helps make this possible.

When the COVID-19 emergency struck, Oregon Hunger Response Funds helped create a nearly seamless transition from normal operations to COVID-19 CDC protocols for food distribution in Clatsop County. These funds were there for us when we needed them most, and the CCA Regional Food Bank was there for Clatsop County residents when they needed the food bank's help the most.

Rolling up the 2019-2021 one-time funds into a new base budget of \$4,560,000 will give the CCA Regional Food Bank the support it needs to effectively respond not only to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 emergency and other uncertainties but also to the ongoing challenges of hunger and food insecurity in Clatsop County.

We are grateful for your support and value your efforts to fight hunger and food insecurity in the State of Oregon. We look forward to continuing to work with you to fight hunger and food insecurity in Clatsop County.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns or if we can support you in any way.

Sincerely,

Viviana Matthews

CCA Executive Director

Dusten Martin

RFB Chief Operations Officer

Our mission is to help people meet housing, food, and other basic living needs