



April 14th, 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 97301

Dear Co-Chairs,

My name is Sheila Hiatt and I am the Branch Services Manager in Ontario with Oregon Food Bank - Southeast Oregon Services. I am writing to request \$4.56 million as 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.

Oregon Food Bank - Southeast Oregon Services serves all of Harney and Malheur counties through 30 partner agencies and 3 mobile distributions. Nearly all of our partner agencies have stayed open throughout the Covid-19 pandemic with changes to our distribution and using social distancing and mask wearing. We were also able to maintain our 3 mobile distribution sites in Jordan Valley, Harper and Annex.

Over the summer, we held 3 emergency drive up food distributions that served over 600 households in Ontario. We partnered with the City of Ontario, Valley Family Health, OSU extension office, Snake River Transit (who helped deliver boxes directly to homes), Malheur County Health Department and Oregon Department of Human Services.

The Oregon Hunger Response Fund is critical to meet the staffing and transportation needs of our branch. We are able to maintain our full time driver, who delivers directly to partner agencies across Harney and Malheur counties. This allows us to provide direct distribution so that partner agencies do not have to travel to our warehouse in Ontario. We also utilized these funds to help replace our refrigerated truck after an accident.

The Oregon Food Bank Network has responded to the increased need during the Covid-19 pandemic throughout the state. One of the reasons that we were able to respond so well was because of Oregon Hunger Response Funds and additional food purchasing provided by the Oregon Legislature. With the additional food purchase funding provided in the last year, we have been able to work with Red Apple and Grocery Outlet in Ontario to purchase staples like cereal, pastas, canned meats and canned fruits and vegetables.

oregonfoodbank.org

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Hunger is an entrenched problem in Oregon and the pandemic is bringing this to light. The Oregon Food Bank Network respectfully requests \$4.56 million as the new base budget for the Oregon Hunger Response Fund in the Oregon Department of Human Services budget for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Sincerely,

Sheila Hiatt
Branch Services Manager
Oregon Food Bank - Southwest Oregon Services

