



March 29, 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:

**REQUEST: OREGON HUNGER RESPONSE FUNDING FOR 2021-23**

United Community Action Network runs Feeding Umpqua, the regional food bank serving all of Douglas County. At this time, we partner with over 50 organizations to provide supplemental and emergency nutrition to nearly 18,000 people every month. Last year, with a team of five people, we distributed over 2.1 million pounds food, which translated to 1.5 million meals.

Food programs like ours help support families. By supplementing their food budget, they have more resources to pay for things like rent and utilities. The food which we provide comes from multiple sources. We receive food from local food drives as well as from a food recovery/salvage partnership with local grocery stores. In addition, we also receive from the Oregon Food Bank and the federal commodities programs.

Right now, because of the stimulus bills, the USDA is positioned to distribute more food than ever, but with supply chain disruptions across the nation, orders have been cancelled and food is delayed to our network. These same supply chains affect our grocery store partners and the amount of donations we pick-up every day. We also have seen a sharp decrease in food drives as consumers shy away from volunteering during the pandemic. These factors combined with the looming financial cliff many face as supports from the pandemic relief bills end later this summer, create an environment where we could have less food and more hungry people.

As we plan for the next biennium, we believe that an investment of \$4.56 million in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund would help stabilize the emergency food system and our continued efforts to feed hungry people in Douglas County. This amount of funding would be the same as the 2019-2021 biennium, but would take the one-time funding we received and convert it into the base budget amount (see the table below for more details.)

The Oregon Hunger Response Fund provides our food program with critical state funding to help us leverage more resources, more food and more cost-effective operations. This has been especially

critical during a time when our county has faced the pandemic as well as devastating wildfires. There is so much more we can do to fight hunger in Oregon. We are committed to mobilizing the resources necessary to supplement public funding. We ask that you collaborate with us to support this critical work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Shaun Pritchard  
Executive Director

- cc The Honorable Peter Courtney, Senate President
- The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House
- The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Senator, District 4
- The Honorable Dick Anderson, Senator, District 5
- The Honorable Dallas Heard, Senator, District 1
- The Honorable Cedric Hayden, Representative, District 7
- The Honorable Boomer Wright, Representative, District 9
- The Honorable David Brock-Smith, Representative, District 1
- The Honorable Gary Leif, Representative, District 2

TABLE - ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS REQUESTS FOR 2021-23 BUDGET

<u>ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS</u>	<u>STATE AGENCY</u>	<u>2021-23 BUDGET</u>	
		<u>Governor's Recommended</u>	<u>REQUESTED w/ one-time funding included</u>
<b>OR Hunger Response Fund</b>	<u>ODHS</u>	<b>\$2.9 million</b>	<b><u>\$4.56 million</u></b>