



770 Bailey Hill Road
 Eugene, OR 97402
 phone (541) 343-2822
 fax (541) 343-5019
 info@foodforlanecounty.org
www.foodforlanecounty.org

January 10, 2023

Rainy Day Food Pantry
 4000 East 30th Ave.
 Eugene, Oregon 97405

Dear D'Ante and LCC Management,

I want to begin by emphasizing the importance and impact of the Rainy Day Food Pantry. All of our partners, including your program, saw dramatic increases in access during the last quarter of 2022 due to inflation. According to the [USDA](https://www.usda.gov), the food-at-home (grocery store or supermarket food purchases) consumer price index in November 2022 was 12.0 percent higher than in November 2021, with certain items such as eggs increasing by over 30 percent. These price increases have caused food insecurity rates to sore, making resources like Rainy Day more important than ever. Below are Rainy Day's 2022 statistics.

- 70 food pick-ups from FFLC
- 26,771 pounds of food distributed
- 304 families (Note: this is the total number of families served, not how many times they accessed the pantry/ received food)
 - 603 adults
 - 269 children



While I do believe it is possible to continue operations in the prior location (if/after necessary pest control measures are taken), I highly recommend moving the pantry to one of the fully indoor spaces for the following reasons. With safety as our main priority, moving to an indoor location would eliminate the rodent issue and provide accessible handwashing stations, which has been a concern. The prior location is highly susceptible to pests due to the garage-style doors and being too close to the dumpsters. Even if the current openings in the ceiling are sealed, I am not confident the problem could be fully solved without the continued use of a certified pest control company.

Our second priority when evaluating a space is accessibility. Although both locations are ADA-accessible, there are many advantages to the indoor locations, including a fully sheltered space to wait, closer bus and parking lot access, and a lighter, more welcoming environment. All of these advantages extend beyond physical accessibility into emotional accessibility and will help create a trauma-informed space.

I hope this information and recommendation are helpful while planning the re-opening of the food pantry. Please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss any of this information further or if there is any way I can help get you re-opened faster. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to student success!

Sincerely,

Kerry O'Connor

Kerry O'Connor
 Partner Agency Services Coordinator
koconnor@foodforlanecounty.org
 541-913-4995

FOOD For Lane County
 is an equal opportunity
 provider and a member of

