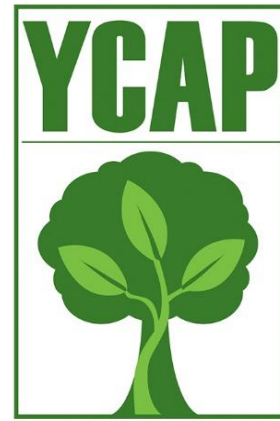


RE: New Biennium Budget

4/8/2023



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Honorable Legislators,

Our **30+ Partner Pantries** in Yamhill County rely on YCAP and The Oregon Food Bank in order to offer families a variety of nutritious foods. Access to food items is essential to fight food insecurity within our local population. High food prices, along with the reduction in SNAP Benefits have put a strain on families. The requests for food assistance are ever increasing. We do our best to ration food items among our pantry partners, as we are not always able to fulfill orders due to increased need. The Oregon Food Bank Network has three priorities for the 2023 budget which will help YCAP meet the increased need, while strengthening our statewide network to ensure food remains available to all who need it, for years to come:

- \$9M for the Oregon Hunger Response Fund to maintain funding for emergency food distribution efforts statewide.
- \$10M to fund critical food purchases through the Oregon Department of Human Services.
- \$22M to strengthen Oregon's food distribution network to make one-time infrastructure investments in regional food banks to support Oregonians facing hunger

Our **Harvest to Home Mobile Pantry** initiative needs funding to continue providing fresh, nutritious produce to the Senior Center and low-income neighbors living in outlying areas known as “food deserts”. In the past, our Harvest to Home mobile pantry delivered to three separate communities across Yamhill County, but has since been cut back to just one location due to funding issues and staff shortages. **Congregant Meal Sites** provide ready made meals to those in need on a regular basis. These sites are seeing an increase in demand for meals. I receive calls on a weekly basis from citizens inquiring about food boxes and meal site schedules.

As the need for food assistance grows, the need for additional funding for staffing and infrastructure has also increased. We are asking the legislators to support Oregon’s Emergency Food Network funding request to fill existing funding gaps in order for us to provide for those in need.

Sincerely,

Dan Winters

Dan Winters

Regional Food Bank Manager



CCB#50960

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.