



Community Action Program East Central Oregon

SERVING UMATILLA • MORROW • GILLIAM • WHEELER • SHERMAN • WASCO • HOOD RIVER COUNTIES

***Assisting
people to
become
independent,
healthy
and safe.***

MAIN OFFICE

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FOOD WAREHOUSE

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541-289-7755
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THE DALLES

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May 5, 2023

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Co-Chair Girod
Co-Chair Holvey

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Paula Hall, Chief Executive Officer of Community Action Program of East Central Oregon serving Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler, Sherman, Wasco, and Hood River Counties. Our organization serves over 80,000 persons a year through the Oregon Food Bank's Network of Regional Food Banks. We do this by supporting local food pantries, meal sites, student backpack programs, senior commodities, and a fresh produce distribution program. For the last twenty years we have provided these services from a leased location with limited ability to accept larger local donations including bulk produce or product with additional handling requirements. The site also allows for little to no ability to expand services to meet the growing need of our community.

Our regional food bank network is requesting \$22 million for one-time infrastructure investments into our regional food banks across the state. This request will help strengthen our statewide distribution network and support Oregonians facing hunger. Funds will allow us to meet the increased needs, while strengthening our statewide network to ensure food remains available to all who need it, for years to come.

CAPECO would use its portion of these funds to help build a multi-purpose, multi-generational Food Center to service the region of Eastern Oregon. The Food Center will expand the agency's regional food bank services and offer additional space to include a commercial kitchen, congregate space for meal sharing and social-connecting services including educational, nutritional, and healthy-living activities.

We are mindful as we make this request that food banking alone is not a permanent solution to hunger. Hunger is not just an empty stomach or an individual experience. We are encouraged that the legislature is also taking action to address the reasons why so many people seek emergency food.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. We urge you to support this important request.

Sincerely,

Paula Hall
Chief Executive Officer