

Submitter: Mary Shaw

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

February 5, 2025

To: The House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

Florence Farmers Market, a 501 (c)(3), is a vibrant local food Market with robust community support, ensuring access to all by facilitating equity programs like SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks (DU), Protein Incentive, Lil' Lettuce kid's vouchers and Produce Prescription.

Promoting, administrating and tracking these equity programs is time consuming and requires training to do the work.

Growth Grant funding supported a stipend for a retired social worker to network in the Siuslaw Community. She spoke directly with Oregon Trail Card (OTC) holders throughout the Market season. The OTC users know and rely on her for updates and basic information about the SNAP/DU program and the Market. She also distributed SNAP/DU vouchers at every Market.

Growth Grant funds also allowed FFM to pay the new Market Manager to attend Oregon Farmers Market trainings plus the DU Oregon Tool Kit. He quickly developed his own record keeping system and he worked closely with the Market's bookkeeper to keep up to date and accurate records.

FFM's volunteer bookkeeper has been a part of the Market team for 6 years, most of her work tracks equity programs. With a total of 5 equity programs, all requiring meticulous documentation, her work is invaluable. Thanks to Growth Grant funding FFM could offer her a small stipend for her time.

Without the Growth Grant funds, FFM could not offer these five programs to our shoppers. Administration and recordkeeping are often the forgotten part of a well-run program.

Mary Shaw

Founding Member Florence Farmers Market 2018
past President 2019-2023

Treasurer 2023-2024