



**Date:** March 12, 2025  
**Name:** Nancy Mitchell  
**Organization:** Food Share of Lincoln County  
**Location:** Newport OR

Co-Chair Campos,  
Co-Chair Valderamma,  
Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Food Share of Lincoln County, the regional food bank for Lincoln County, we strongly support the increased funding through the Oregon Hunger Response Fund to provide critical food assistance throughout the state. In Lincoln County, we provide food security that serves as a lifeline to thousands of families and individuals facing food insecurity and financial hardship. The need for food assistance has significantly increased, due to the rising cost of goods and services.

One-third more Oregonians are experiencing hunger now than before the pandemic. Last year, we had 19,145 visits to 6 food assistance sites in Lincoln County. This is a 19% increase in households seeking help. We are in the midst of an ongoing hunger crisis and we have the opportunity to address meaningful change in this legislative session. In a survey among Oregon's regional food programs, a gap of \$15 million was identified to maintain existing services. Without these funds, the end result is more people receiving less food.

For many in our community the money runs out before they make it to the grocery store. Food pantries and supplemental food programs are the only alternative to make ends meet. Even a one-time trip to a food pantry can prevent a senior from going without heat, medication, or transportation. Food insecurity impacts all, regardless of age, ethnicities and backgrounds, and it is a direct barrier to health, education and productivity. The funding requested today will directly support food distribution, operational costs and programs that target specific needs within our community.

I urge you to recognize the vital work that we do and the critical role we play in sustaining the health and well-being of our county. Increased funding is not just a response to a crisis; it is an investment in Oregon's future- a future where no one goes hungry.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Mitchell".

Nancy Mitchell  
Executive Director Food Share of Lincoln County  
nmitchell@foodsharelc.org  
541-265-8578