



March 13, 2025

Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderrama, Members of the Committee –

On behalf of the Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO), we would like to express the need for additional funding for food operations and food acquisition in Senate Bill 5526. CAPO represents 18 local community action agencies; non-profit organizations created to address the needs of low-income families and help overcome poverty-related barriers. While each community is different, key services include housing assistance, emergency food programs, job training, energy bill assistance, and childcare support.

Specifically, we ask that you allocate funding for regional food programs that are providing a critical lifeline for thousands of families and individuals facing food insecurity. Currently, we are seeing a tremendous need throughout local communities. **One-third more Oregonians are experiencing hunger** now than before the pandemic. Last year, there were 2.5 million visits to the 1,200 food assistance sites throughout the Oregon Food Network — a **31% increase** from the previous year. The current level of food insecurity facing Oregonians combined with recent **reductions in federal funding for food assistance** creates an urgent need to invest in food security. While in the midst of an affordability crisis, we are in an ongoing hunger crisis.

In a survey among Oregon’s regional food programs, **a gap of \$16.7 million** was identified to **maintain existing levels of services**.

Organization	Operation Funding/Food Acquisition Gap
Access Food Share	\$1,324,000.00
Community Connections of NE Oregon	\$200,000.00
CAPECO Food Share	\$1,000,000.00
Linn Benton Food Share	\$1,200,000.00
Food Share of Lincoln County	\$400,000.00
NeighborImpact	\$2,000,000.00
Yamhill Community Action Partnership	\$1,000,000.00
Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank	\$500,000.00
Columbia Pacific Food Bank	\$300,000.00
Food for Lane County	\$2,000,000.00
Josephine County Food Bank	\$500,000.00
Klamath-Lake Counties Food Bank	\$600,000.00
Marion/Polk Region	\$2,000,000.00
South Coast Food Share, ORCA	\$1,600,000.00
Feeding Umpqua, a program of UCAN	\$2,078,000.00
Total	\$16,702,000.00

In looking at it from a **statewide perspective and including urban areas, the need only intensifies**. Please join us in investing in critical programs to support operations of local food programs and food acquisition – no one should go hungry.