

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction From: North Plains Food Bank

RE: SB 5531 Support / Funding for Refrigerated Truck – North Plains Food Bank

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lora Dexheimer, and I am writing on behalf of the North Plains Food Bank to respectfully request funding for a refrigerated truck that will allow us to better serve our growing community and increase the reach and impact of our work.

North Plains is a small rural community in Washington County that qualifies as a food desert. We do not have a grocery store, and residents—particularly those without reliable transportation—face serious challenges accessing affordable, nutritious food. In response to this growing need, we launched the North Plains Food Bank in November 2023, starting with just 163 people. In only a few months, that number has grown to 954 individuals who are currently signed up to receive food assistance.

Of those:

- 255 are senior citizens
- 336 are families
- Our clients come from 15 different cities, including Aloha, Banks, Beaverton, Buxton, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Gales Creek, Hillsboro, McMinnville, North Plains, Portland, Scappoose, Tigard, Vernonia, and houseless individuals throughout the area

We are seeing an average of 10 new people signing up for assistance each week. This rapid growth reflects not only the demand in North Plains, but the lack of accessible services in surrounding areas.

To meet this need, we are currently picking up an average of 4,000 pounds of food donations each week from local grocery stores and donors. However, our biggest limitation is transportation. Right now, we rely on a non-refrigerated trailer, which restricts how far we can safely travel to pick up food—especially perishable items like dairy, meat, and fresh produce.

With a refrigerated truck, we would be able to:

- Travel farther and connect with more donation sources
- Increase the volume and variety of food we can safely transport
- Reduce the amount of food we must purchase each month, which is critical as we operate entirely on community donations with no government or OFB support

• Ensure food safety and compliance with regulations, helping us preserve the trust of our clients and donors

We are not currently part of the Oregon Food Bank network, as it is closed to new partner agencies. This makes outside support like this funding request vital to the sustainability and growth of our food bank.

We are proud of what we've accomplished in such a short time, but it's clear that the need in North Plains and the surrounding communities is only growing. This refrigerated truck would be a game-changing resource for our low-income families, seniors, and houseless neighbors who rely on us for healthy, reliable food access.

On behalf of the North Plains Food Bank and the hundreds of Oregonians we serve every week, thank you for considering our request and for your continued support of community-based solutions to hunger and food insecurity.

Sincerely,

LORA DEXHERMER

Lora Dexheimer Executive Director Lora@NPFoodBank.com 503-442-8060

2025-27 CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Legislative Fiscal Office 900 Court St. NE, H-178 Salem, OR 97301



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION				
Organization Legal Name North Plains Food Bank				
Organization Type <u>Non Profit</u>	Federal Tax ID	Federal Tax ID Number		
Address31450 NW Commercial St. / PO Box 57				
City North Plains	State OR	Zip Code 97133		
Contact Person Lora Dexheimer				
ntact Phone (503) 442-8060 Contact Email Lora@NPFoodBank.com				
PROJECT INFORMATION				

Project Name _____ North Plains Food Bank Refrigerated Truck

Project Description

The North Plains Food Bank seeks funding for a refrigerated truck to safely transport perishable food to serve a rapidly growing community in need. Without local grocery stores, residents—especially seniors and low-income families—face significant barriers to accessing fresh and nutritious food. The truck will allow the food bank to expand its capacity, reduce food waste, and increase the variety of healthy options available. With a 12-fold increase in demand over the past year and more affordable housing developments on the way, this investment is critical to ensuring food security. By securing this funding, the North Plains Food Bank can continue its mission of providing dignified, reliable food assistance to those who need it most.

Project Location_31450 NW Commercial St., North Plains, OR

Project Schedule (Please describe the project's readiness, including planned start and end dates and any remaining permits, approvals, or other steps that must be completed prior to beginning.)

- March April 2025: Secure grant funding and finalize additional fundraising efforts.
- May 2025: Identify and purchase a suitable new or used refrigerated truck.
- May 2025: Complete necessary inspections, licensing, and branding for the truck.
- June 2025: Train volunteers and staff on proper food handling, storage, and transportation procedures.
- June 2025: Fully integrate the refrigerated truck into food distribution operations, increasing capacity and efficiency. This timeline is contingent on when the grant is awarded.

PROJECT BUDGET

Estimated Project Cost			
Construction/Reno	vation		
Site Improvements			
Land Acquisition			
Architectural and E	ngineering Fees		
Equipment		\$ 1	30,000
Contingencies			
Other Costs (specif	y)		
Other Costs (specif	y)		
Estimated Total Project Costs		\$1	.30,000
Amount Requested	\$ 120,000	Percent of Total Project (Cost
Type of Funding Requested	d General Fund		
Matching Funds			
State Funds (source	e)		
Federal Funds (sou	rce)		
Private/Other Gran	its		
Donations/Gifts			\$ 10,000
Other Revenues/Fi	nancing (source)		
Other Revenues/Fi	inancing (source)		
Total Matching Funds			\$ 10,000
OTHER INFORMATION			

Grants financed through the issuance of bonds are not available until bonds are sold. Multiple factors impact the timing of sales; however, many sales often occur during the last six months of the biennium (Oregon's biennial budget begins on July 1 of odd-numbered years and runs through June 30 of the next odd-numbered year). Significant decreases in revenues or changes in financial conditions subsequent to authorization may also delay or prevent the issuance of bonds, which means that the approved projects or grants would also be delayed or not funded.

Public works projects, including any project that uses \$750,000 or more of public funds for constructing, reconstructing, painting or performing a major renovation on a road, highway, building, structure or improvement of any type, may be subject prevailing wage requirements. Grant recipients must comply with prevailing wage rate laws and should consult the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to determine whether a project is subject to prevailing wage.

Please return the completed form and any supporting documentation to:

Walt Campbell, Principal Legislative (Bonding) Analyst

LFO.CapitalProjectRequests@oregonlegislature.gov

J have greatly benefitted from the NP Food Bank since it began a few months ago. Jam 69 y.o. Famale living alone & rant just went up again 30 1 g an thankful for any cost savings Jam dependent on my SS income since J retired a few yrs ago. North Plains is a very pleasant community & I hope Dear Legislators, The North Plains

The North Plains Food Bank urgently needs a refrigerated truck to expand our reach and maximize food donation opportunities. At this time we are not part of the Oregon Food Bank, so we are fully community-funded, relying solely on local support to serve families in need. Additionally, North Plains has no grocery store, making access to fresh and nutritious food even more challenging for residents. With this vehicle, we can safely transport perishable goods from donors located farther away, significantly increasing the variety and quantity of food we provide. This investment not only reduces food waste but also strengthens our community's resilience against hunger. Your support in approving our funding request will directly impact countless lives, ensuring that no one in our region goes without a meal. Thank you for championing this essential cause.



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Denise D. Erickson

ORE. Rep. Thank you For your Fimin. My Gran Father Was g Grocery Manager at a Well Known Grocery Chain, To Elimonate Also For Walkin food waste, Congestion to an Area, and falls to Pisabled Patrons this would Solve ZNA less problems. It is Dear Legislators,

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PO Box 57 North Plains, OR 97113 and hegg for Pistilistriketing Patrons like home bess Even Hough Expensive than K you For your trou Consideration

North Plains Food Bank

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The Morth Plains Food bank is an incredible blessing to one community, and we value t appreciate all the hard week & dedication of the wonderful folks who make such a positive difference in so many lives Please allow the Funds needed to Keep us feed. Dear Legislators, Chandleon Bland

Dear Legislators, Chandlan K kand The North Plains Food Bank urgently needs a refrigerated truck to expand our reach and maximize food donation opportunities. At this time we are not part of the Oregon Food Bank, so we are fully community-funded, relying solely on local support to serve families in need. Additionally, North Plains has no grocery store, making access to fresh and nutritious food even more challenging for residents. With this vehicle, we can safely transport perishable goods from donors located farther away, significantly increasing the variety and quantity of food we provide. This investment not only reduces food waste but also strengthens our community's resilience against hunger. Your support in approving our funding request will directly impact countless lives, ensuring that no one in our region goes without a meal. Thank you for championing this essential cause.



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Summer is coming & we nega Some way to keep sparli would solve things Please conside

North Plains Food Bank PO Box 57 North Plains, OR 97113

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North Plains Food Bank PO Box 57 North Plains, OR 97113

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Client Testimony: ank aproal Dear Legislators, The North Plains Food Bank urgently needs a refrigerated truck to expand our reach and maximize food donation opportunities. At this time we are not part of the Oregon Food Bank, so we are fully community-funded, relying solely on local support to serve families in need. Additionally, North Plains has no grocery store, making access to fresh and nutritious food even more challenging for residents. With this vehicle, we can safely transport perishable goods from donors located farther away, significantly increasing the variety and quantity of food we provide. This investment not only reduces food waste but also strengthens our community's resilience against hunger. Your support in approving our funding request will directly impact countless lives, ensuring that no one in our region goes without a meal. Thank you for championing this essential cause.



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I lost my job some nonths ago, so I have been Stroggling to puy my bills and also getting enough food for my Family. Thanks North Plains Food Bunk I can bring essentials items and Food to my Family of six. IF the North Plains tood Bank had a refrigerator truck many people would be able to get Fresher Food.

Maria Mejia

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North Plains Food Bank PO Box 57 North Plains, OR 97113

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Please support this funding - equest to ensure more families will regive the help they need to have food on their tables the way I do every week here at NPFB the Heck The North Plains Food Bank urgently needs a refrigerated truck to expand our reach and maximize food donation opportunities. At this time we are not part of the Oregon Food Bank, so we are fully community-funded, relying solely on local support to serve families in need. Additionally, North Plains has no grocery store, making access to fresh and nutritious food even more challenging for residents. With this vehicle, we can safely transport perishable

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I Daniel Riley VOTE "YES" For the Refrigerated Truck

Our Orginize Leader Laura has Improved the North Plains Food Bank in So many ways to help our Community, feeding the minday the people in need are so grateful for having her on there side Laura is a usonderful Rison that is always looking to Continuitis Improver the needs for the people who Nevet the Help Please & Support Laura to receive the Refrierrated Touck it is Nice Dear Legislators, to have someone like Lawra to work The North Plains Food Bank urgently needs a refrigerated truck to expand our reach and maximize food donation opportunities. At this time we are not part of the Oregon Food Bank, so we are fully community-funded, relying solely on local support to serve families in need. Additionally, North Plains has no grocery store, making access to fresh and nutritious food even more challenging for residents. With this vehicle, we can safely transport perishable goods from donors located farther away, significantly increasing the variety and quantity of food we provide. This investment not only reduces food waste but also strengthens our community's resilience against hunger. Your support in approving our funding request will directly impact countless lives, ensuring that no one in our region goes without a meal. Thank you for championing this essential cause.



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North Plains Food Bank PO Box 57 North Plains, OR 97113

So hard for our Community Every booly will Creatly benefit From the Refridgereted Truck for Many Years to Come

thank you and thank you Laura For Always Improving the North plains food Bank

this food pantry open and a vailable this food pantry open and a vailable thas saved our bacon" more than once not only do they provide life sustaining food to the less fortunate bot they also provide a serve of community to those who would otherwise have none. Tianna Rose

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Month Rains food Bank needs refinationation Anne! The gadiest are so helpful t ile so helpful t ile so helpful t to hulp this Dear Legislators, Community

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FOOD BANK

North Plains Food Bank PO Box 57

They have a really grate place here I don'T know what I would do without Them. I live in a randown 68 mobol home, I fixe up a littel bit once inwil, inaway Thats what helps. Better Then fiving under a bridge everyone

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is nice, everyone works hard To Put it Together every on entro know what you need. I hope you can help out.

we use the food bank through the month to help red my goyca- all mom p disabled hashand. They Provided anecded Service

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Jam a low income senior Fre spen how this food bank has progressed in Just 1/2 years, Laura made it happen along with her many faithful Volunteens. I could say how much I and so many people appreciatte them all, I can see how a food truck refridgerated

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4-28-2025

North Plains Food Bank PO Box 57 North Plains, OR 97113 could be of so much help to move forward Im beyond impressed on the North Plains Food Bank. Im not sure if Everyone realized ubut Ffort gops into Making this happen

Wade Lawson 3/3 SU NWKaybern St#) North plains.

503 807 8722

Our Community needs man fundt to get more funds mon equitatent to Keep up with our growing heads for the Comment

Thanky

North Plains Food Bank PO Box 57 North Plains, OR 97113

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Client Testimony: Our Community is growing at a rapid pace. It is appropraite that North Plains Food Bonk get funds for a refrigerated truck in order to keep up with the pace

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