



# NeighborImpact

Supporting People, Strengthening Communities

February 13, 2026

Joint Committee on Ways & Means  
Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

In January 2025, NeighborImpact opened a long-planned 10,000-square-foot warehouse in Redmond — a critical regional hub for supplemental food assistance. The warehouse is the hub of the region’s supplemental food assistance program. It houses the regional food bank, is home base for 18 monthly feeding programs run out of the food bank and supplies food to 57 partner agencies. Almost 1 million individuals came to feeding programs last year to find food. This is a critical support. By design, SNAP benefits support households only 20 days per month on average and with sharply rising food costs, that number is shrinking.

**We are asking for \$150,000 in capital construction funding to install solar panels** on the rooftop of the building. Significantly, this will **reduce operating costs at the regional food bank by approximately \$25,000 annually, allowing us to invest more in operations and food assistance.** This will generate the power needed to run the expensive HVAC system needed to heat and cool the building year round (essential for food storage) and to power the refrigeration that maintains product freshness ahead of redistribution. The warehouse was designed and built to be able to accept solar panels with this goal in mind. Unfortunately, as construction costs rose, the actual solar panels fell victim to value-engineering—a not uncommon story in Oregon’s construction landscape.

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If you require accommodation for impairment, disability, language barrier, etc., please contact NeighborImpact at 541-548-2380 or email: [reception@neighborimpact.org](mailto:reception@neighborimpact.org)

A side benefit of the regional food bank are important business and environmental considerations. NeighborImpact is able to take 100% of surplus food from local groceries, including perishable and expired food. Food which cannot be immediately redistributed before it spoils is efficiently dispatched. Food which is past expiration is diverted to use as animal feed. Every pound of food that NeighborImpact takes in saves is an environmental investment, saving space in the local landfill and tax advantages the major corporations that depend on the food system as a disposal mechanism.

The food banks is operated almost entirely by donations. These pay for personnel, mostly drivers and warehouse workers, trucks and gas, utilities and facilities and equipment. Most food is donated, although purchasing has become more common as demand has risen to three times its volume pre-COVID. A 2023 grant of state resources by the legislature was a godsend at a time when demand was soaring, but its expiration has sent the fundraisers scrambling to make up that deficit. This ask is not a request for an ongoing subsidy. It is a one-time investment that will make the building and the program more sustainable so that we can continue to feed, the disabled, the elderly, children, the ill, the homeless, domestic violence victims, college students who have nothing left after paying tuition and living expense and families who are working two jobs and still stretch their incomes to cover steadily rising costs.

We respectfully request \$150,000 in capital construction funding to install rooftop solar panels—an investment that will reduce long-term utility expenses and redirect those savings toward what matters most: purchasing more food and expanding direct assistance to families across our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Scott" and "Cooper" being capitalized and prominent.

Scott Cooper  
Executive Director, NeighborImpact