

2022-23 Oregon Producers Feeding Oregon Communities Overview & Guidelines



What is the Oregon Producers feeding Oregon Communities Program?

The purpose of the program is to purchase local and domestic food from socially disadvantaged producers to be distributed to underserved communities.

What are the goals of this program?

- ❖ Provide an opportunity for States and Tribal Governments to strengthen their local and regional food system.
- ❖ Help to support local and socially disadvantaged producers through building and expanding economic opportunities.
- ❖ Establish and broaden partnerships with producers and the food distribution community, and local food networks, including non-profits to ensure distribution of fresh and nutritious foods in urban, rural, remote, or underserved communities.

What are the objectives of this program?

- ❖ Increase the number of socially disadvantaged producers supplying food to underserved communities.
- ❖ Increase access through local distribution channels that are outside of traditional [USDA TEFAP](#) (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) providers who are working with underserved communities. Emergency food providers are typically food banks and food pantries.
- ❖ Increased connectivity between producers through peer to peer sharing.

Terms and Definitions

- ❖ **Producer** for the purpose of this program, the term *producer* includes: growers, ranchers, freshwater & seafood harvesters, and processors
- ❖ **Socially Disadvantaged Producer.** A member of a Socially Disadvantaged group whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.
- ❖ **Small Producer:** an individual or entity that operates a farm, ranch or seafood harvest operation in Oregon that produced and sold no more than \$1 million (gross) of agricultural products during the previous calendar year.
- ❖ **Beginning Producer:** an individual or entity that has not operated a farm, ranch or seafood harvest operation for more than 10 years and that substantially participates in the operation of the farm, ranch, or seafood operation.

- ❖ **Rural Producer:** We follow the US Census that considers “rural” to include all people, housing, and territory that are not within an urban area. Any area that is not urban is rural. The Census defines urban as: Urbanized Areas of 50,000 or more people.
- ❖ **Culturally Specific Foods** defined as food that is keeping with an individual and/or communities cultural beliefs, practices and customs.
- ❖ **Underserved Communities** refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life.

Program Guidelines

Through this program, Oregon Food Bank pays producers, up front for food they will then distribute to community members impacted by hunger. The grant period for this first round of funding will be from February 2023 through November 2023. More funds may be available at a later time.

- ❖ Producers can apply for the following funding tiers:
 - Tier 1: \$500 minimum up to \$5,000 (paid up front in full)
 - Tier 2: \$5,001 minimum up to \$25,000 (paid up front in full)
 - Tier 3: \$25,001 minimum up to \$50,000 (paid half up front and half mid-season)
- ❖ Once the grant is closed, applications will be reviewed by a panel with the use of a scoring matrix to help determine who gets awarded and how funds will be allocated.
- ❖ Awardees will have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) set up between Oregon Food Bank and themselves, outlining the conditions of the program such as the type(s) of product intended to be provided, the cost, how it will be distributed, and the community it will reach. Invoicing instructions, payment deadlines, and reporting requirements will also be outlined.
- ❖ A W-9 will need to be provided by awarded applicants, to pay them in advance and/or in installments for the products they distribute. A W-9 is needed before an MOU can be fully executed and funds can be distributed.
- ❖ Recipients of funds must also comply with USDA Quarterly and Annually reporting requirements. [Refer to USDA Progress Report](#)
- ❖ We will work with producers who already have established distribution outlets *and* will help connect producers who don’t currently distribute to communities impacted by hunger to distribution outlets such as a food pantry, free food market and/or community organizations.

Eligibility

- ❖ To be eligible for grant funds under the program, an applicant must be a “producer.” A “producer” includes any of the following entities:
 - A person who borrows, leases, rents, or owns Oregon land, whether the land is publicly-owned, privately-owned, or Tribal land, on which crops are cultivated or livestock is raised.
 - An Oregon seafood and freshwater harvester.
 - An Oregon grower, rancher, or value-added processor.
- ❖ Priority given to socially disadvantaged producers (see terms and definitions above).

- ❖ Types of food that qualify for purchase:
 - Fresh produce, nuts & legumes, whole grains, value-added products, meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, seafood and freshwater fish.
 - Processed products are to be made with at least 51% of locally grown or raised produce.
 - Local and domestic food is defined as:
 - Food that is raised, produced, aggregated, stored, processed, and distributed in the locality or region where the final product is marketed to consumers, so that the total distance that the product travels between the farm or ranch where the product originates and the point of sale to the end consumer is at most 400 miles, or both the final market and the origin of the product are within the same State, territory, or tribal land. These foods [are exempt](#) by the Buy American Act and therefore are waived from the U.S. Origin's restrictions.
 - Producers *must be distributing* to underserved communities.

Application Process Dates and Timeline

Event	Date
Applications Opens	December 7, 2022
Application Closes	December 31, 2022
Screen Applications for Qualifying Proposals	Rolling basis until January 8, 2023
Proposals reviewed by Grant Evaluation Committee	Dec 31, 2022 to January 20, 2023
Award Notices sent out	Week of January 30, 2023
MOU process (W9 received, Contract Drafted and Signed)	January 30, 2023 - February 17, 2023
Funding Dispersed	February 2023
All Funds Spent	November 2023

Application Submission

- ❖ Online application is available in English and a word document application is available in Spanish. No handwritten applications will be eligible.
 - If applicants need assistance applying in other languages, we will arrange for interpretation.

- Application will be available in an online format and will be submitted via JotForm.
- ❖ [Application Link](#) will be open until **December 31st**.

Contact Information

- ❖ Please review the [OFB FAQ](#)'s in conjunction with the Program Guidelines. If you still have questions and/or need assistance with the LFPA grant program please email: lfpa@oregonfoodbank.org

*** For information on the overall USDA-AMS Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement, please check out their [website](#) for further details.***