

FOOD MATTERS!

SPRING 2022



Yaneli Hernandez-Tapia: Lived Experience Leading the Movement

Based in Salem, Yaneli Hernandez-Tapia (she/her/hers) is a member of Oregon Food Bank's Policy Leadership Council, helping to determine the public policy changes needed to end hunger for good. Yaneli is a youth environmentalist, farmer and racial justice activist whose lived experience sparked her passion for food justice — and showed her the revolutionary power of community-led change.

"Having a Policy Leadership Council that's not only Black, Indigenous and other people of color — but people from all walks of life — that have experienced some sort of oppression is important," Yaneli shared. "It brings our unique lenses into enacting policy changes that have an impact at the statewide or local levels."

Oregon Food Bank is among the first in the nation to ensure community members are in the lead on policy and advocacy decisions. We know that people who have experienced food insecurity are the experts, and Yaneli's lived and professional expertise position her to bring critical perspectives to the fight for food justice for future generations.



Read Yaneli's full story and join the movement to end hunger at oregonfoodbank.org/yaneli. 🌱

Coming Together to Overcome Any Obstacle

It's easy to be pessimistic these days. Our communities are still under siege, facing down a new surge with the Omicron variant. Families across the nation are suffering from economic loss, academic disruption and mental health crises. Rates of hunger and poverty remain historically high, especially among communities of color.



Yet my heart is full of hope and my heard-from-around-the-block laughter comes easily. Because we continue to demonstrate together the unquenchable, unstoppable, limitless power of community.

This community ensured that everyone who sought food assistance received it.

In 2021, we estimate that the Oregon Food Bank Network welcomed more than a million people to a free food market, pantry or mealsite. That's significant progress from the record 1.7 million in 2020, but still much higher than what we saw pre-pandemic.

This progress is due to the incredible work we did together to fight for a stronger social safety net — from increased SNAP benefits, to eviction protections, to the child tax credit. We've long known that food alone is not a solution to hunger, and we showed up in incredible ways to push for policies and investments that address the systemic inequities that drive hunger and poverty. Our Policy Leadership Council is now at the forefront of this work, bringing lived experience and community expertise to bear in identifying anti-hunger priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

I'm excited to share these priorities with you today — and hope that you'll continue adding your voice, your time, your energy and your power to help us all emerge stronger in 2022. As Amanda Gorman says in her poem A New Day's Lyric:

*For wherever we come together,
We will forever overcome.*

With love and hope,

Susannah Morgan
CEO, Oregon Food Bank



Our 2022 Legislative Agenda to #EmergeStronger

The public health and economic crisis created by COVID-19 has taught us what it takes to meet today's challenges head-on. Through meaningful public policies and investments that include everyone, we can ensure all our communities emerge stronger. Over the course of this brief legislative session, we hope to make progress in three key areas that are critical to our shared work to end hunger for good. Learn more about specific legislation and opportunities for action at oregonfoodbank.org/advocate. 🌱

Equal Opportunity to Thrive

We believe in an Oregon where everyone is welcome and has the opportunity to thrive. Yet immigrants and refugees in our communities face a host of systemic challenges, including double the rate of food insecurity as people born inside the United States. The legislature is considering several proposals that will advance immigrant justice and foster a stronger, more resilient food system.

- **Farmworker Overtime (HB 4002):** Our food system is anchored by nearly 175,000 essential migrant and seasonal workers who are among the lowest paid in Oregon — and many face food insecurity as a result. Oregon must join states across the country and include agricultural workers in overtime protections and pay.
- **Universal Legal Representation (SB 1543):** All Oregonians should be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of where we are born. Access to legal counsel is a fundamental step to ensuring everyone is treated fairly under the law.
- **Oregon Worker Relief Fund (Budget):** We must maintain investments in this vital resource for essential workers who have been hit hard by the pandemic, yet are ineligible for Unemployment Insurance and other forms of relief. 🌱



Stable Homes for Oregonians

Everyone deserves a safe, healthy place to call home. We face a crisis of affordable housing in every corner of the state, made worse by the economic impacts of the pandemic. Two key policy areas will ensure continued action to keep Oregonians in our homes — whether rented or owned.

- **Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention:** Families across the state continue to face loss of income and stability due to the pandemic — and many remain at risk of losing our homes. We must ensure continued access to critical housing protections and financial support.
- **Right to Cooling (SB 1536):** Record high temperatures have endangered the health of too many Oregonians in recent years. Everyone should have the right to access and install cooling units to keep us safe and well. 🌿



Safe Communities for All

We all should feel secure in our homes and neighborhoods. Feeling safe is foundational to every family's ability to earn an income and thrive — and we need equitable, accountable systems that help ensure safety for everyone in our communities.

We can take important steps together to **Transform Justice (SB 1510)** this session. When people with lived experience are in the lead, we can build a public safety system that works for all of us. These reforms will provide help to

people experiencing houselessness, ensure greater mental health support across the state, prioritize rehabilitation and invest in restorative justice. 🌿





Ending Hunger Requires an Inclusive Democracy That Works for All

We know we cannot achieve our mission to end hunger and its root causes without an inclusive democracy that works for all of us. The systemic inequities that drive hunger and poverty are the same inequities that keep voters from the polls and silence our voices in the halls of power. Whether through paralyzing walkouts or outright violence, anti-democratic tactics jeopardize our shared vision and the well-being of millions of Oregonians.

In the immediate aftermath of the January 6 attack on our democracy, we joined more than 40 community organizations and local leaders to condemn violence and White Nationalism. Now, we renew that call for shared action to strengthen our democracy so as to rebuild the inclusive democracy we need to ensure resilient communities that never know hunger.

Join us in centering people experiencing hunger in your giving and volunteer work — to be there for our neighbors who continue to face incredible challenges in the wake of COVID-19. Join us in engaging in the civic process to advance anti-hunger policy and systems change in whatever way makes sense for you. We invite you to sign up for action alerts, donate to anti-hunger efforts or volunteer in the community.

This community offers so much hope for the future. Thank you for standing with us in the fight to end hunger — and for the future work we'll do together to ensure an inclusive democracy that works for **all** of us.

Find ways to get involved at oregonfoodbank.org/inclusivedemocracy. 🌱

KGW Great Food Drive Begins March 1

For over 18 years, the annual KGW Great Food Drive has supported Oregon Food Bank's mission to end hunger and its root causes. With your help, we raised over \$1.1 million last year! Donate toward the 2022 effort at oregonfoodbank.org/kgw. 🌱



Thank You for Your Support!



Thank you **Boeing**, for furthering equity initiatives in our community and for supporting our work to end hunger by being the Oregon Harvest Dinner's Hunger Hero Award Sponsor for 2021!



Fred Meyer makes a critical difference in our communities with Zero Hunger | Zero Waste, aiming to end hunger and be waste free by 2025. We are thankful for your support as Presenting Sponsor for the 2021 Oregon Harvest Dinner!



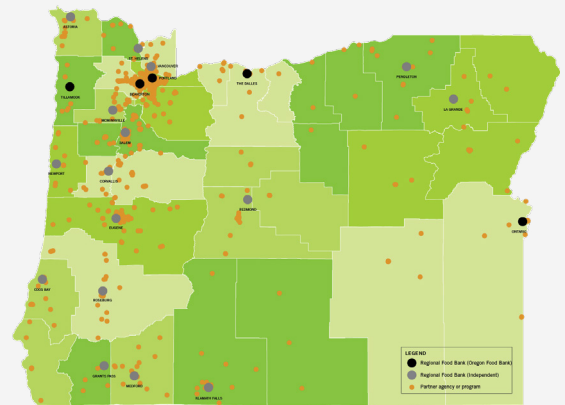
Thank you to **Kaiser Permanente** for supporting our community in many ways, including generous employee donations and a grant for the Double Up Food Bucks program.



Thank you to **New Seasons** for your leadership in advancing equity in the work to end hunger and its root causes and co-creating a stronger community! We are so grateful for you!

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Food is Available to All Who Need It!



Our Network of 1,400+ pantries, free food markets and meal sites remains open throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington — with many locations now offering contactless pick-up or delivery options.

If you or someone you know needs support, know that resources are available. From SNAP benefits to housing assistance, program expansions and new initiatives are underway to support families who are struggling in the wake of COVID-19.

Find food assistance sites near you at OregonFoodFinder.org — now available in 14 languages common to the Pacific Northwest!



oregonfoodbank.org | 503.282.0555

