

# FOOD MATTERS!

SPRING 2021



## School Pantries Unite Communities During COVID-19

“My full name is Isabel Martinez, but everyone calls me Isa. I am employed by Metropolitan Family Service, but I started as a volunteer about 5 years ago and I loved it. I love working with the community.

The pandemic has affected us in that many people would like to volunteer, but they can't. Sadly we have to tell them that during the pandemic we cannot accept a lot of volunteers. They can still come get their food, but they are left with the desire to help.

I think needs have increased [since the pandemic started]. Many people lost their jobs and we've seen that now instead of just a mother coming to pick up the food, it's the whole family. Personally, the school pantry has helped me a lot. Our work hours have been reduced and sometimes it's hard to make ends meet.

I think it's important to have school pantries because that's where our children are and we can distribute information about food banks. Then the information gets passed down to our neighbors and our elderly. There is a big Latino community that sometimes doesn't know where to access help.

I think we should be united in everything. Our entire community should be more united. Now with the pandemic it is more helpful than ever to be informed about resources.

For me, I am motivated because I love helping my community. It feels good when someone says, ‘Thank you. Thank you for everything you are doing for us because in addition to the work you do, you are putting yourself at risk.’” 🌱

# Hunger Has No Place in Our Communities



*Let's start with a moment of recognition. Let's remember together all of our neighbors who have been impacted by COVID-19, by wildfires, by police violence, by power outages. Let's remember those who have lost their lives, who have lost loved ones, who have suffered through a serious illness or injury, who have lost their homes, who have lost their jobs. Let's remember all our neighbors who are hungry today. Let's hold all these people in our hearts for a moment, always remembering that all of these crises disproportionately impact our equity constituencies — communities of color, immigrants and refugees, our trans and gender non-conforming neighbors and single moms and caregivers.*

I start every Zoom meeting with Oregon Food Bank staff and Board with this recognition. This has been a terrible year.

This has also been a year of recommitment. These concurrent crises have made me extra-super-duper-with-a-cherry-on-top dedicated to Oregon Food Bank's vision. Because hunger has no place here — and we WILL build resilient communities that never go hungry.

This vision requires systemic change, because hunger's root causes were insidiously enacted. They are hundreds of years' worth of legislation crafted to benefit some and keep others down. They are silent, working behind the scenes, often showing up only in after-the-fact data. And the data is clear — our equity constituencies face many, many more barriers to prosperity in every town, rural and urban.

The good news is that systems can change. We humans made them; we can remake them. We can make systems that work for ALL our neighbors. And we can do this while

continuing our commitment to distributing nourishing, culturally appropriate food, so that ALL of our neighbors have enough food today, through crises big and small. We can and will do both.

I am excited to keep working alongside you. I look forward to continuing to cultivate community-led change. Some of those efforts and results can already be seen in this very newsletter: in Isabel's story of helping her community with deep care and meaningful action, and in our work to create a truly inclusive democracy. Thank you for believing, with us that hunger has no place in our communities. And that, together, we can end hunger for good. 🌱

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susannah Morgan'.

Susannah Morgan  
CEO, Oregon Food Bank

# Double Up Food Bucks Boosts Healthy Food Access

At Oregon Food Bank, we believe nutritious, affordable food is a human right. And one of the most effective programs we have to help combat food insecurity is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), sometimes referred to as food stamps.

In 2019, we piloted the Double Up Food Bucks program to help ensure that our communities have access to more fruits and vegetables. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm share programs (CSAs), and select independently-owned grocery stores (with a focus on stores owned by and serving communities of color), SNAP participants receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown produce, up to \$10 per visit.

At the Medford Co-op, the number of unique Double Up shoppers grew from 98 in June to 268 shoppers in October. “Increasing access to fresh fruits and



vegetables for low-income shoppers is a huge benefit for our community,” the co-op shares. “Allowing shoppers to stretch their grocery budgets — especially during the pandemic when folks are out of work — and include more healthy foods in their diets is vitally important.”

This year, the Double Up Food Bucks program supported Oregon families in purchasing \$250,000 in fruits and vegetables.

Learn more at [doubleuporegon.org](https://doubleuporegon.org) 🐦



## PGE Supports Sustainability

For over three years, Oregon Food Bank has worked to bring electric vehicles into

our fleet, starting with a pilot program. In March 2020, the PGE Drive Change Fund invested in our mission by purchasing two electric vehicles and a charging

station to enhance travel efficiency for Oregon Food Bank staff. The grant has helped us reach over 400 partner agencies across the Portland Metropolitan area and commit to a sustainable future, thanks to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s Clean Fuels Program via the PGE Drive Change Fund. By reducing waste and investing in sustainable transportation, we can ensure we are feeding families today and fighting the root causes of hunger in the long term. 🐦

## KGW Great Food Drive Makes an Impact

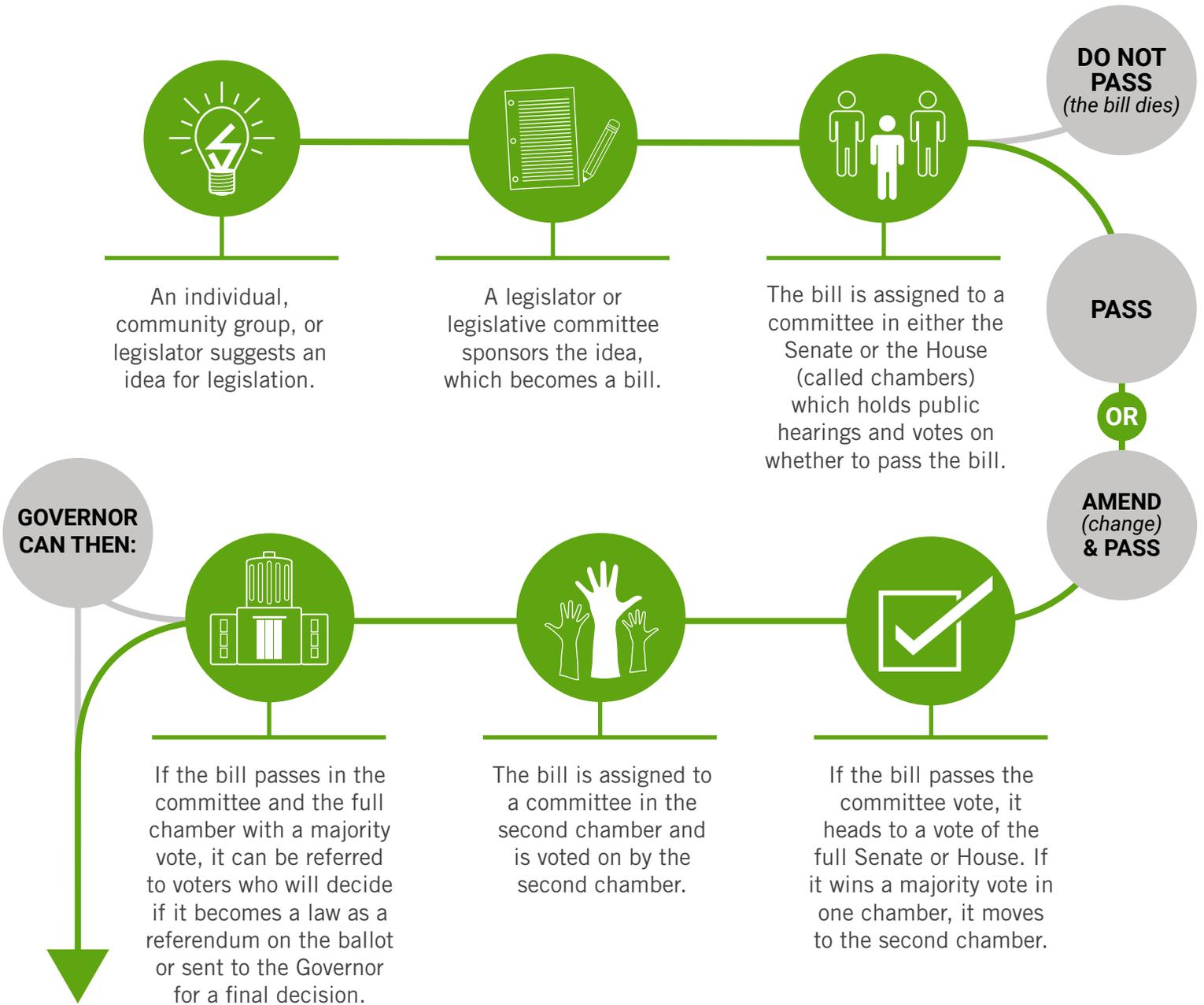
The annual KGW Great Food Drive helps fight hunger and its root causes. In the last year, hunger in Oregon has almost doubled. Through the month of March, our community has come together to raise an incredible amount of support for hunger relief. Thank you to everyone who donated to the KGW Great Food Drive and if you haven’t yet, there’s still time! Join us at [oregonfoodbank.org/kgw](https://oregonfoodbank.org/kgw) 🐦



# How an Idea Becomes a Law

At Oregon Food Bank, we believe civic engagement is one of the best tools we have to eliminate the root causes of hunger. Government belongs to us: we pay taxes and elect leaders to be our voice in the decisions that affect our families and communities.

That's why we're working to make sure everyone knows how decisions about important issues — such as access to food, childcare, housing, healthcare, racial justice and immigration — are made. Together, through voting and grassroots advocacy, we can make our voices heard to fight hunger and its root causes.



## SIGN THE BILL

The bill becomes a law and takes effect on January 1 of the year after passage.

OR

## NOT SIGN THE BILL

The bill still becomes law! Bill becomes law without Governor's signature.

OR

## VETO THE BILL

The bill goes back to House and Senate, 2/3 majority vote in both houses will override veto.

# Resolving to Defend Inclusive Democracy in 2021

Peaceful protest is a cornerstone of our democracy. But violence of any kind destroys the fabric of our society. The attack on our U.S. Capitol and anti-democratic action in Salem and Olympia bring new meaning and focus to what we must resolve to do together to end hunger.

We can't achieve key anti-hunger policy goals without an inclusive democracy that works for everyone. Anti-democratic tactics jeopardize our mission, vision and the well-being of millions of Oregonians.



This year, we have seen our community come together like never before, and we have hope that we will emerge stronger from these crises. We hope you'll join us in defending the kind of inclusive democracy we need to advance anti-hunger policies.

Thank you for standing with us in the fight to end hunger — and for the work we'll do together to ensure an inclusive democracy that works for all of us. 🌱

---

## 2021 Legislative Priorities

Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 11 Oregonians were food insecure. Today, nearly 1 in 5 people in our communities face hunger — a dramatic increase. And the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic have fallen hardest on people who have faced systemic inequities for generations: communities of color, immigrants and refugees, single parents and caregivers, and our trans and gender non-conforming neighbors.

This year's legislative session offers opportunities to address harmful policies and systems that drive hunger. These three priority issues will fight root causes of hunger and poverty.

### Food Security and Economic Justice

- Reduce hunger on college campuses by ensuring staff and resources are present
- Leave no worker behind from Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit
- Increase access to nutritious food via the "Double Up Food Bucks" SNAP match program
- Ensure childcare and other essential resources for every Oregon family
- Support emergency food assistance through the Oregon Hunger Response Fund

### Racial Justice and Immigrant Rights

- Adopt Racial Justice Council's recommendations
- Protect the rights of every Oregonian
- Ensure education and healthcare for Oregonians in the Compact of Free Association (COFA)

### COVID-19 Relief for All

- Support essential workers through the Oregon Worker Relief Fund
- Keep Oregonians in homes (rented or owned)
- Prioritize community needs in future rounds of federal stimulus

Learn more about our legislative priorities, individual bills and budget items, as well as ways to take action at [oregonfoodbank.org/advocate](https://oregonfoodbank.org/advocate) 🌱

# Thank You for Your Support!



Applied Materials staff and the **Applied Materials Foundation** designed creative virtual fundraising ideas to raise over \$57,000, their largest donation ever!



Thank you to the **Avangrid Foundation** for generously funding our food acquisition and distribution program.



We are grateful to **The Boeing Company** for major financial support of wildfire relief efforts.



**Charter Mechanical** made a fantastic contribution to support food security in our communities.



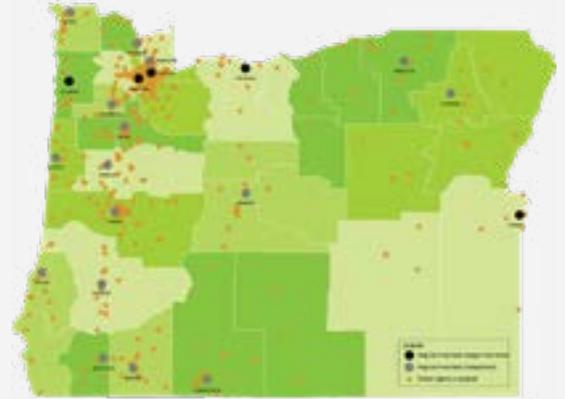
**Lam Research Company** and its employees provided generous donations to COVID-19 relief.



**Portland General Electric** provides support in multiple ways, including two electric vehicles and a charging station through the PGE Drive Change Fund.

B.P., Lester and Regina John Foundation • Barbeau Evans LLP • Ste. Michelle Wine Estates • CoBank • Combined Federal Campaign • Comcast • Danone North America • Delta Fire • Enterprise Holdings Foundation • Facebook • Feeding America, thanks to Wells Fargo and Morgan Stanley • First Tech Federal Credit Union • Fred Meyer Fund • Gangaji Foundation • Genentech • Gladys and Roland Harriman Foundation • GlobalGiving Foundation • Hayes Family Foundation • Hilltop Foundation • Intel Corporation • IRC Aluminum and Stainless • Jacobs • Kaiser Permanente • KOIN • Lineberger Foundation • Maxim Integrated • Merle & Ellen Morgan Gift Fund • Molson Coors • Morgan Stanley Wealth Management • Neighborhood Funders Group • New Seasons Market • NIKE, Inc. • NW Natural • OHSU Knight Cancer Institute • Olseth Family Foundation • Opulent Philanthropy • Oregon FFA Foundation • Pacific Power – PacifiCorp • Portland Gear • Providence Health & Services • Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon • RJA Foundation • RMF Foundation • Safeway Albertsons • Schnitzer Steel Industries • Siemens • Smart Foodservice • Subaru of America • The Hershey Company • The Lawry – de Freitas Wealth Management, LLC • The Oregon Community Foundation • The Renaissance Foundation • The Rosebraugh Charitable Trust • The Standard • The T.F. Dixon Family Foundation, Inc. • Umpqua Bank • United Way of the Columbia-Willamette • Walmart • Walsh Construction Company • Wells Fargo • Wheeler Foundation • Zera Foundation

## Food is Available to All Who Need It!



Our Network of 1,400+ pantries 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](http://OregonFoodFinder.org) — now available in 11 languages common to the Pacific Northwest!



[oregonfoodbank.org](http://oregonfoodbank.org) | 503.282.0555



@oregonfoodbank