

Our Acknowledgements of Harm (External)



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Oregon Food Bank’s mission is a promise, a charge and a principle: *To eliminate hunger and its root causes — because no one should be hungry.* [And we know that achievement of our 10-year vision](#) depends on ongoing learning and evolution across Oregon Food Bank’s programs, policies and practices. This journey has led us to the undeniable conclusion that to end hunger we must commit fully to racial justice. Racial justice in the daily experiences of our staff. Racial justice in the programs and partnerships that engage people accessing food assistance. Racial justice in the ways we ensure the leadership of Black, Indigenous and other communities of color shape anti-hunger priorities.

In the words of James Baldwin: *“Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.”* In this spirit, we acknowledge the harm that has historically been done by Oregon Food Bank — and we face the significant work ahead that is needed to eliminate systemic and institutional racism in all its forms.

Looking back on our history, Oregon Food Bank has:

- measured success by pounds of food distributed and amount of money raised, as opposed to centering people most impacted by hunger;
- acted “on behalf of” people who are food insecure and/or communities of color, instead of “along with” and “led by”;
- not prioritized long term, values-based relationships with racial justice and immigrant rights organizations, nor with communities of color overall; and
- perpetuated “us / them” narratives in who we see as our key audiences, which stories we uplift, how we tell stories, and the languages and mediums we use.

We acknowledge these facts with grief, humility and as a necessary step for a renewed, stronger, and more effective commitment to our mission and vision.

Our Commitment to Equity & Racial Justice (External)



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At Oregon Food Bank, we hold people experiencing hunger and food insecurity in Oregon and Southwest Washington at the center of our actions and decisions. We envision a community where each person can fully participate, prosper and have reliable access to food that is in keeping with their culture. This work is driven by strong community-centered partnerships, organizing, advocacy and food distribution.

We know that the root causes of hunger are systemic injustices — including the intersectionalities of racism, classism, sexism and more — which create and perpetuate the conditions that sustain hunger and poverty. Understanding this, we commit to center those who most disproportionately experience hunger across our service area — Black, Indigenous and all People of Color, immigrants and refugees, trans and gender-nonconforming individuals, and single mothers and caregivers — in ways that honor and value each other and our lived experiences.

We resolve to be led by our communities — those with lived experience of systemic oppression and food insecurity — in a shared effort to eliminate hunger and its root causes. We will respond to racism and other inequities, both in our own work and in society-at-large. We will confront poverty and oppression through solutions that honor our shared humanity and respond to the diversity of community strengths and needs...because no one should be hungry. And we will hold ourselves, our partners and our elected leaders accountable to the equity and racial justice priorities of our communities — and to the preservation of our interconnected health, dignity and well-being. Because no one should be hungry.