



**OREGON  
FOOD BANK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Miranda Brown, [miranda.brown@brinkcomm.com](mailto:miranda.brown@brinkcomm.com),  
(909) 838-2824

## **Oregon Food Bank Statement on Local Impact, Promise and Shortfalls of Historic White House Conference on Hunger**

PORTLAND, OR – For the first time in more than 50 years, [the White House today convened a national conference to inspire coordinated efforts to end hunger](#) and significantly improve public health by 2030. Oregon Food Bank CEO Susannah Morgan released the following statement on the local impact, promise and shortfalls of proposed federal solutions to food insecurity:

“We’re thrilled that the White House is bringing national attention and focus to rising food insecurity in our communities. And yet we know we must go further than the strategies proposed today to truly address hunger and its root causes.

“Hunger is a community-wide symptom of poverty and injustice that is driven by historic racial, gender and economic inequities. These are systemic challenges that require systemic solutions; it will take much more than tired misconceptions of individual decisions and personal responsibility. Federal leaders must pursue bold solutions to match the lived realities of the 1.5 million people who will seek food assistance in our region this year, alongside tens of thousands more who have long been excluded from federal nutrition and safety net programs.

“To build communities that never know hunger, we need living-wage jobs, affordable housing and childcare, and expanded access to food assistance programs. We need investments in direct assistance to people and communities that disproportionately face hunger and poverty. And we need to take meaningful steps toward erasing the widespread disparities that drive food insecurity.

“The White House conference recommendations are an important start, but it will take all of us working together to hold our elected leaders accountable to their pledge to end hunger by 2030. I hope everyone will join us in urging Congress to take bold action now to help end hunger at its roots.”

Community members can learn more about the White House Conference, anti-hunger policy priorities and opportunities for action at [oregonfoodbank.org/hungeractionmonth](https://oregonfoodbank.org/hungeractionmonth).

Oregon Food Bank CEO Susannah Morgan is available to share further insights on the local perspective on the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, the current state of hunger, and proven solutions. Contact [miranda.brown@brinkcomm.com](mailto:miranda.brown@brinkcomm.com) to coordinate interviews.

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**ABOUT OREGON FOOD BANK**

At Oregon Food Bank, we believe that food and health are basic human rights for all. We know that hunger is not just an individual experience; it is also a community-wide symptom of barriers to employment, education, housing and health care. That's why we work systemically in our mission to end hunger in Oregon: we foster community connections to help people access nutritious, affordable food today, and we build community power to eliminate the root causes of hunger for good. [Visit OregonFoodFinder.org to find resources in your community.](http://OregonFoodFinder.org)