



Dear [NAME],

Give yourself a moment to pause and imagine a *future without hunger*. What does that future look like for you, for your loved ones and for your neighbors? In your vision, what is the state of our community's health, economy, cultural and civic life?

I want you to hold that vision for a moment — for three reasons:

**First, the hunger crisis is no feeble foe.** To rise everyday and face down that foe, we must believe in a vision for the future — one that gives us hope.

**Second, a vision as audacious as communities that never know hunger will not happen overnight.** It requires ongoing, vigilant practice. To remain visionary is a discipline.

**And perhaps most importantly, that vision you're holding is critical to our success.** In community, each of us extends our unique offering as part of a collective, greater good. When we do, our shared hope, courage, dedication and action can outmatch our hunger foe by magnitudes.

That's why I'm writing to you today — because I need your help bringing our shared vision for a hunger-free future to life. **Your [\$VALUE] donation by December 31 will provide crucial resources to Oregon Food Bank as more than a million of our neighbors access food assistance this year across Oregon and Southwest Washington.**

I hope you'll take heart from the enclosed stories of community leaders daring to lead our collective effort to build a better future — thanks to your vision and support. Gonzalo Garcia Reyes's Lomita Farm is working toward



"A future where the people don't experience hunger to me looks like lots of joy and lots of celebration and people coming together to share foods that have meaning to them."

— GONZALO GARCIA REYES,  
FOUNDER OF LOMITA FARM

a more just and humane future for agricultural laborers. Shantae Johnson at Feed'em Freedom Foundation is incubating the next generation of Black food-systems leaders, agriculturists and land stewards. And Cayle Tern is advancing policy change to ensure future generations of

Oregonians will not struggle with food insecurity as our neighbors who are immigrants and refugees do today.

**Alongside these leaders and tens of thousands of allies, your support culminates into a radical wave of love in action – one that manifests our shared vision of a future without hunger.**

**CURRENT STATE OF HUNGER** (PAGE 3)

Learn more about the ongoing food insecurity crisis in our region – and the systemic approach we’re taking to address both the immediate impacts of national economic realities and the drivers of hunger and poverty in our communities.

**INCREASING COMMUNITY ACCESS** (PAGE 5)

Our network is reaching rural, urban and suburban communities alike with greater volumes of locally-produced, culturally flexible produce, meat and dairy. This requires adaptive food sourcing strategies, strong relationships with growers and retailers and modernized facilities to receive and distribute fresh and frozen foods.

**EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEMS** (PAGE 8)

Our communities are overcoming historic barriers and inequities through transformational change in our food systems. From expanding access to land for farming and launching agricultural enterprises, to producing culturally-familiar foods and multiplying the economic impact of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), we’re building a shared future where everyone prospers.

**AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY POWER** (PAGE 13)

Our year-round civic engagement and community organizing efforts are building people power throughout the region – with a focus on policy solutions put forward by those of us who are disproportionately impacted by hunger. Together, we’re shortening the distance between elected leaders and our communities.

I’d love to hear from you with questions or feedback. Contact me at [\[Solicit\\_Phone\]](#) or [\[Solicit\\_Email\]@OregonFoodBank.org](#). And if you are ready to donate you can mail a check in the enclosed envelope or give online at [OregonFoodBank.org/LoveOregon](#).

In solidarity,

**[Primary\_Solicitor], ([primary solicitor pronouns]), Oregon Food Bank**  
[Primary\_Solicitor\_Title]

# ENVISIONING A FUTURE WITHOUT HUNGER:

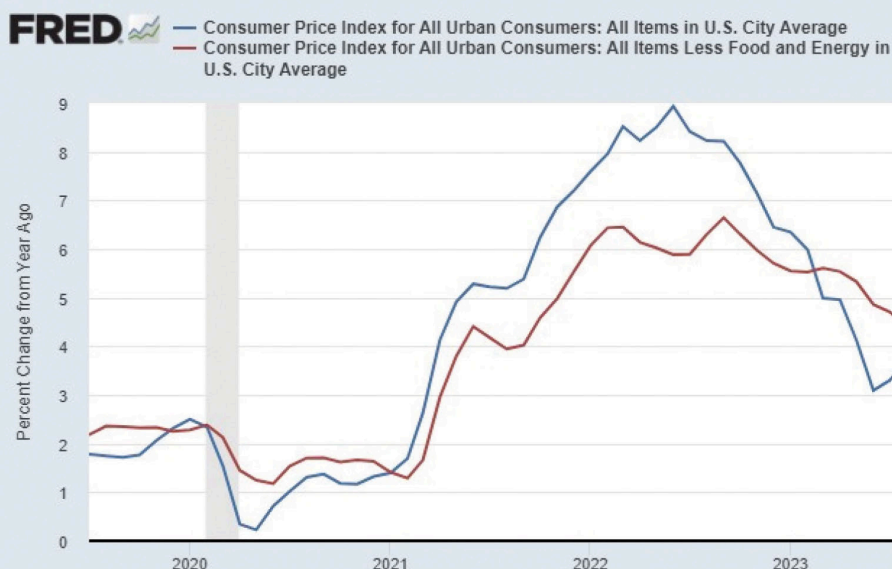
## CURRENT STATE OF HUNGER

**IN OUR REGION:** Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 11 Oregonians were food insecure. Today, 1 in 5 people in Oregon face hunger across rural, urban and suburban communities. This dramatic increase remains stubbornly persistent, with elevated costs of food and housing layered on top of the ongoing economic fallout from COVID-19. **These pressures will lead more than one million people to seek emergency food assistance from the Oregon Food Bank Network this year.**

**INFLATION & POVERTY:** Poverty is a root cause of hunger, and the rising cost of everyday essentials is most certainly driving poverty in our communities. The Consumer Price Index steadily increased for much of the past two years, meaning lower-income households have far less purchasing power today than they did prior to the pandemic. And even then, food costs already consumed a full third of those households' budgets.

Today, the cost of groceries is up 20% overall, paired with higher housing costs in every corner of the state. The combination often forces impossible choices for families – between heat this winter and reliable transportation, medical bills and staying current on rent.

Stark data from the Federal Reserve also shows nearly 40% of Americans don't have \$400 to cover an emergency expense. **Livelihoods are fragile here in Oregon and across America – and food is often among the first places families cut back.**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES:** Although economic hardship may feel like a shared experience, these challenges have disproportionately impacted specific communities due to historic inequities. **Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), immigrants and refugees, single moms and caregivers and trans and gender-diverse communities are two-to-three times more likely to face hunger and poverty in our region — regardless of where people live.**

**Gonzalo Garcia Reyes has seen these disparities first-hand in the added challenges immigrant farmers and agricultural workers face in our communities.** As a teenager working on berry farms, he witnessed the unjust treatment of migrant farmworkers through difficult living conditions and unfair wages. Even today, as a farm owner himself, Gonzalo faces barriers to financing and other supports that are more easily accessed by U.S.-born farmers to sustain their businesses.



"It's really important to grow and to share culturally specific produce for me because I view it as a way of healing."

— GONZALO GARCIA REYES,  
FOUNDER OF LOMITA FARM

**These are just a few examples of experiences that drive disproportionate hunger and poverty among our neighbors who are immigrants and refugees.** And Gonzalo made sure his farming model would include support for the community when he founded Lomita Farm in Gresham. Lomita translates to "little hill," and is Gonzalo's way of honoring and recognizing "La Loma" (the hill) in Oaxaca, Mexico, where his family has farmed and stewarded the land for generations.

**In partnership with Familias en Acción, Lomita hosts a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that brings familiar foods to 30 local families at no cost.**

## 2023 LANDSCAPE OF HUNGER

# 1 in 5

COVID-19: Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 11 Oregonians were food insecure. By 2021 we estimated nearly 1 in 5 of our neighbors faced hunger.

# 40%

Economic Disparity: Approximately 40% of Americans don't have the money on hand to cover a \$400 emergency expense.

# 20%

Inflation: The cost of groceries in our communities has increased nearly 20%, while lower-income households already spend more than one-third of our budgets on food.

# 2x-3x

Racial Inequity: Food insecurity among Black and Indigenous households is 2X the rate of White households in Oregon, and Latine families are 3X as likely to face hunger.

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## ENVISIONING A FUTURE WITHOUT HUNGER: INCREASING COMMUNITY ACCESS

**STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION:** Oregon Food Bank serves as the operational hub for a network of 21 regional food banks and 1,400+ food assistance partners across Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our central warehouse sources and redistributes more than 41 million meals (~50 million pounds) of food each year — reaching nearly 1.5 million people facing food insecurity in rural areas, small towns and urban centers alike.

Across our Network, regional food banks locally source and redistribute an additional 19 million meals (~23 million pounds) of food annually. We facilitate connections with local food industry donors — including farmers, ranchers and manufacturers. And our localized approach to pairing grocers with food assistance partners in their communities has become a national model for the Feeding America Network.

Beyond food provision, we invest in our 1,400+ partners with training and technical assistance, coordinated community outreach and public education, direct funding for infrastructure (refrigeration, trucks, supplies, etc.) and best practices in food safety and cultural inclusion. This

robust partnership includes 52 school pantries across 10 counties, building on our rich legacy of building some of the first school-based programs in the country.

**FRESH LOCAL BOUNTY:** Rooted in a belief that everyone in our communities should have access to fresh, nutritious foods, we prioritize strategies that source abundant, locally-grown and -raised products. **And it's working. We expect more than 27% – that's 11 million meals (~13.4 million pounds) – of the produce we source in the coming year will be locally grown.**

**FOOD SOURCING:** Widespread supply chain disruptions, labor constraints and economic and market shifts impacted agriculture and food production industries throughout the pandemic. Food donation streams from private donors and the United States Department of Agriculture have only recently begun to stabilize.

To navigate these challenges and maintain a steady flow of food to our communities during heightened need, we have purchased food at unprecedented scale. This is only possible due to significant funding from our partners in state government and outstanding generosity from donors like you. **(Thank you!)**

OFB Central Food Sourcing	2022-2023 Forecast	2022-2023 Year-End Projection	2023-2024 Forecast
USDA	12.4M lbs (30%)	14.4M lbs (29%)	14.4M lbs (29%)
Donated	16.8M lbs (41%)	20.1M lbs (41%)	23.7M lbs (49%)
Purchased	11.9M lbs (29%)	14.9M lbs (30%)	10.6M lbs (22%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.1M lbs</b>	<b>49.4M lbs</b>	<b>48.8M lbs</b>

Yet sustaining food purchases at these levels is tenuous. While food banks are able to stretch a dollar much further than any individual consumer, our scale does not shield us from rising food and fuel prices. **Greater community need requires more truckloads of food, at a time when the cost of sourcing and transporting that food has spiked 10% to 30%.**

**With your ongoing support, we will continue to invest heavily to deepen and expand relationships with local growers, manufacturers and retailers – to increase private food donations and ensure every community can access our fresh, local bounty.**



**INDUSTRY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:** For over a decade, we've partnered to end hunger with Organically Grown Company (OGC) – the largest distributor of organic produce in the U.S. **Since 2022, OGC donated nearly 210,000 lbs of fresh, organic, locally-grown produce to address hunger in our communities and over 130,000 lbs in 2023 alone.** Donations represent a broad selection of



produce such as melons, grapes, potatoes, peppers, lemons, apples, oranges and pears.

Brian Keogh, Co-Chair of Organically Grown Mission Fund, spoke at OFB's annual Donor Appreciation Event in July 2023 and stated one of OGC Mission Fund's priorities is "Expanding healthy and nutritious foods for underserved communities."

Throughout the Pacific Northwest, OGC holds relationships with nearly 200 farms from which they rescue produce and channel donations directly to OFB and the OFB Network — reaching communities experiencing hunger in every corner of our region. OGC also lends equipment and provides technical expertise on subjects like food staging and storage.

**However, what makes us proudest to partner are shared values — emblematic in OGC's business practices that mitigate climate change, champion sustainable agriculture, enhance biodiversity and invest in fair labor.**

**More than 75% of OFB's staff and more than 15% of OFB donors report lived experience of hunger or food insecurity. That makes this work personal and passionate for us, and for Brian.**

**MODERNIZING FACILITIES:** Many of OFB's facilities, including our Statewide Warehouse, are decades-old. They were designed with a different purpose: to store large quantities of shelf-stable, dry goods and canned products. With more food donors like Organically Grown providing nutrient-dense, culturally-flexible produce, meats and dairy, we must be able to receive and store larger volumes of such donations. **That's why, this year, we have begun significant renovations to double cold storage capacity and repurpose space to safely process fresh foods at OFB's Statewide Warehouse.**

**GOING GREEN:** Other improvements to the Statewide Warehouse and our fleet of food



"I came from a food insecure household. I was 11 years old during the 1979 recession and my mom was a single, disabled mother of three. We needed assistance more than ever. I felt like it was my duty to go without lunches to save my family money. There was always an issue between gas, food and money.

It brings me back to that childhood, how critical these services are to people in need. It gave me a sense of dignity to know others were there to help our family out. I'm here today because of that service, because of that giving. It allowed me to blossom into the person I am today."

— BRIAN KEOGH,  
ORGANICALLY GROWN  
COMPANY

distribution vehicles will replace fossil fuel consumption with renewable energy, reducing our carbon emissions — **because climate change causes poverty and hunger**. Upgrades have allowed us to convert refrigeration systems from diesel to electric power in the massive freight trailers we use to deliver food across our region.

**And in 2024, we'll establish charging stations for electric-powered, refrigerated sprinter vans to modernize our fleet.** These vehicles will be used for local food deliveries, improving services to smaller partner agencies with historically limited access to refrigerated transportation for fresh foods.

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## ENVISIONING A FUTURE WITHOUT HUNGER: REIMAGINING FOOD SYSTEMS

Long before he founded Lomita Farm, Gonzalo's family had a storied history of agricultural work. His parents and grandparents harvested produce in Chihuahua, Mexico and Baja, CA and here, in Pacific Northwest fruit orchards and berry farms. **His family history showed Gonzalo how difficult, dangerous and exploitative agricultural work can be.**

"The people who actually work on farms are very diverse," Gonzalo explains. **"Most farmworkers in the U.S. are Mexican immigrants or other folks from Central America, and a lot of them also are Indigenous folks. But that's not reflected in who owns the farms.** It's frustrating for me to know...We are the labor behind agriculture and we don't receive recognition for our work."

**COMMUNITY GROWER SUPPORT:** Small agriculture can yield statewide prosperity and help solve hunger. Yet, as Gonzalo notes, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) as well as immigrant and refugee producers face serious barriers to launching farming businesses,







compounded by Oregon's exclusive, racist history of land use laws.

To address historical injustices, OFB's Community Grower Support project focuses on local farmers and producers from these communities — communities that also face the highest and disproportionate rates of hunger.

**In the past year, with funding from USDA and Oregon Department of Human Services, OFB contracted with 136 producers for over \$1.8 million in fresh, nutrient-dense, culturally-relevant harvests.** In the year ahead, we will sustain support at this level to our growers — including Native and Tribal fishers, fruit and vegetable producers, ranchers, herbalists, dairy farmers, bakers and more (95% identify as BIPOC).

### **136 Growers — 95% BIPOC — \$1.8M**

We prepurchase foods that community growers distribute directly to the communities they represent through food banks, pantries, farms (via CSA models), community-based organizations, grassroots groups and tribal communities. Additional, private funding provides flexible, small-business grants for equipment, land access and farming infrastructure. All forms of support help growers achieve stability, expand their business and strengthen regional economies.

**DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS (DUFb):** This program works in tandem with partners like Feed'em Freedom Foundation and OFB's Community Grower Support project to transform food systems with equity at their core — from field to market.

### **\$1 SNAP = \$2 for Produce**

DUFb extends Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) benefits to increase shoppers' purchasing power with a dollar-to-dollar match on fresh, nutrient-dense produce at participating grocery stores and farmers markets.

#### **DUFb IMPACT: In the past year...**

**\$700,000** in SNAP = **\$1.4M** in fruits and vegetables purchased with DUFb = **\$4.2M** in local economic activity generated with DUFb program at **32** stores and farmers markets in **20** counties

**OFB's is one of the largest DUFb programs in the nation!**

## \$1 Produce = \$3 for Economy

The program gives local farmers and grocers a financial boost as we expand DUFB with a focus on BIPOC-owned, BIPOC-community serving, culturally-specific and rural corner grocery stores.

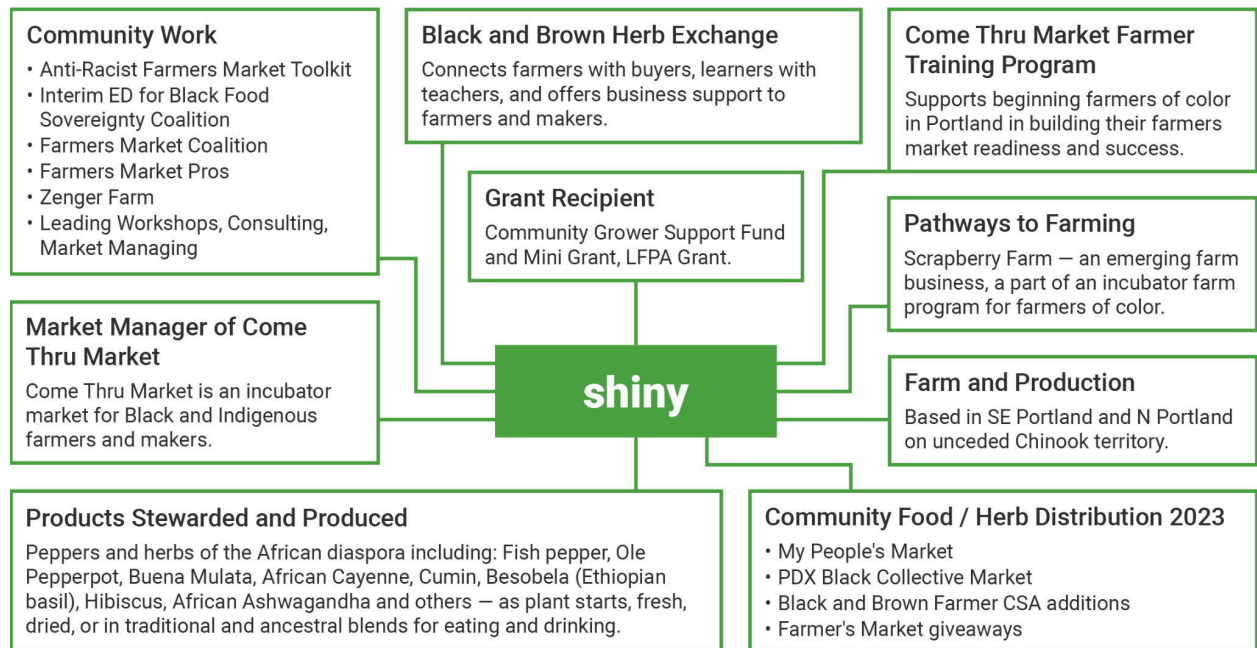
**GROWER SPOTLIGHT:** One of these growers, shiny has worked to increase access to ancestral and culturally relevant foods for Black and Indigenous people by growing specific peppers and herbs used within the African Diaspora. Often these heirloom and heritage varieties are sold for a premium in Portland and surrounding areas, if they are sold at all.

She partners with several local Diasporic farmers to provide fully subsidized add-ons to their CSA offerings, as well as gifting these peppers and herbs to Black and Indigenous shoppers across Portland-area farmers markets — successfully reaching over 75 families per month.

Community Grower Support producers, like shiny, are not just distributing food to community members. They are part of a web of connections — they are community builders, healers, advocates, leaders and collaborators. They are providing food, yes — and medicine, community and culture.

**Each of the 136 growers is making systemic, local impact and building new prosperity across our region.**





**FOOD SYSTEMS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:** Feed'em Freedom Foundation (FFF) ignites and centers Black agriculturists as the owners and movement leaders of land stewardship, regional food security and economic prosperity systems. As a Black-led small farm incubator, FFF supports emerging Black farmers to grow and celebrate culturally-specific ancestral foods and build economic strength that flows from the community of food producers directly into the homes of families most in need. **FFF is a crucial food systems partner to Oregon Food Bank.**

**Over the last century, much of the land owned by Black farmers across the United States was taken by unscrupulous White people and institutions through unjust, coercive and sometimes violent means.**

**1920:** 1 million Black Farmers = 14% of U.S. Farmers

**2017 Oregon Census of Agriculture:** 64 Black Farmers in Oregon = 0.1% of Oregon Farmers

**2023:** Less than 50,000 Black Farmers Nationwide

Establishing critical infrastructure in the BIPOC food economy, Feed'em Freedom Foundation is launching a Black Community Food Center — activating solutions and connections to further grow BIPOC-led farms and businesses.





The Center is a place of innovation, where FFF will cultivate community wealth by connecting small producers to institutional markets, building cooperative growing efforts and creating agricultural pipelines for youth to foster greater food sovereignty for our community. **It will be a full loop system-driver for agriculture, incubating the next generation of food system leaders.**

For a community that has experienced historic injustices and systemically racist barriers to building generational wealth, the FFF Black Community Food Center will bring vital investments. Oregon Food Bank believes supporting Black farmers is critical to address and solve food insecurity across our region — **that's why we're asking you to consider expanding your year-end support to include FFF and learn more by visiting [FeedemFreedom.org](https://FeedemFreedom.org).**



"Creating prosperity and bridging the wealth gap can't happen without land access. If you can get on that land and work the soil, grow food and create jobs, you can create a path toward community sovereignty."

— **SHANTAE JOHNSON**

Executive Director, Feed'em  
Freedom Foundation  
Co-Founder, Mudbone Grown  
OFB Board of Directors

Learn More at [OregonFoodBank.org/Mudbone-FFF](https://OregonFoodBank.org/Mudbone-FFF)

Like Feed'em Freedom Foundation, Gonzalo's Lomita Farm is recreating food systems to correct historic injustices while building community with other farmers, particularly those who are immigrants and people of color. Gonzalo shares, "What is bad is that we don't value the labor that goes into farming and growing the food that goes to people's tables."

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## ENVISIONING A FUTURE WITHOUT HUNGER: AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY POWER

Although Gonzalo is reclaiming his relationship to agriculture as well as growing produce on his own terms at Lomita Farm, ending hunger also requires legislative action. Gonzalo has DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), for example, which protects against deportation and authorizes employment when immigrants are brought to the United States as children. This created pathways for Gonzalo to go to college and start his own farming business — *opportunities many immigrants do not have.*



"It's important to me, as a farmer, to work towards creating a future in agriculture that is more humane. That recognizes the value of people's labor and pays people for their labor."

— GONZALO GARCIA REYES,  
FOUNDER OF LOMITA FARM

### **Public benefits in Oregon exclude many immigrants, including those with DACA in some**

**cases.** For decades, immigrant communities have been organizing to change this and successfully won access to the Oregon Health Plan. Nonetheless, ongoing legal inequalities continue to bar access to nutrition assistance programs — a major driver of hunger in Oregon.

**FOOD FOR ALL OREGONIANS (FFAO):** Food is a human right. Everyone in Oregon should have access to food, no matter where we were born. Yet over 62,000 Oregonians are excluded from food assistance and other vital social safety net programs today — such as SNAP (formerly food stamps) — simply because of immigration status.

Launched to address this injustice by changing state law, Food for All Oregonians (FFAO) is led by a powerful steering committee and supported by a coalition of more than 120 organizational partners.



**Our unique approach shortens the distance between community members most impacted by hunger and their elected officials, ensuring accountability to the people in our representative government.** In the past year, this is exemplified through FFAO by:

- **Mobilizing 4,500+ actions** (emails, pledges, testimony) supporting the FFAO bill.
- **Organizing 100+ attendees** for OFB's Advocacy Day in Salem, OR.
- **Supporting 300+ advocates** to attend town halls and community forums with electeds in Ontario, Tillamook, Portland, Beaverton, Salem, Roseburg and online.
- **Training 100+ leaders** to provide oral testimony to legislators.
- **Facilitating 1,600+ calls** from Oregonians to legislators, urging passage of FFAO.

**FFAO Steering Committee:** Adelante Mujeres, APANO, The Latinx & Immigrant Family Wellness Hub (Centro Latino Americano, Downtown Languages, Huerto de la Familia), Micronesian Islander Community, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, Oregon Food Bank, Unite Oregon

**FFAO PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:** Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) unites Asians and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders and advance equity. A leading voice for the community since 1996, APANO continues to evolve through grassroots organizing, advocacy, community development and cultural work.



"Like many immigrants and refugees, I had a tough upbringing. I experienced racism and hate. I experienced discrimination. And in spite of all the other social inequities and challenges created by being a family on public assistance, I was expected to excel and become American. Not American by my own standards but standards established by White America.

The common question that I received from people was 'Then why do you stay? Why don't you just leave and go back to your country?' Well, many of us can't. The violence that you see on TV with an oppressive government is very real.

I just can't express how important it is to be able to provide for members in our community. The Food for All Oregonians campaign is big and we need to make sure that it passes — because it will help mitigate some of these issues. Nobody needs to be hungry in this country. It's not that we can't afford this; we can. We just have to make it a priority."

— CAYLE TERN (HE/HIM)  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MANAGER,  
APANO

**“APANO gave me the opportunity to help folks at the roots by being involved with advocating for policy change to have a more inclusive environment — not just for immigrants and refugees, but for everyone,”** said Cayle Tern, APANO’s Civic Engagement Manager. With deep roots in the Portland community, Cayle has long been invested in improving the living conditions of his neighbors for the better. He also serves on the Reynolds School Board and as President of the Lu-Mien Association of Oregon.

**Cayle’s enduring empathy and drive to support his community through political action have aided him in being an effective advocate for Food for All Oregonians.** He helped to host APANO’s community conversation on food security where participants highlighted many barriers to accessing food — the rising cost of living, transportation, access to culturally appropriate foods, communication and information barriers and the impact of immigration status.

**FFAO was not passed in Oregon’s 2023 legislative session. But we know the arc of our fight bends toward justice.**

Energy and passion from Cayle, other partners, and supporters like you, will drive us onward — to change Oregon for the better, for future generations.

**We have built undeniable community power. And we will not stop advancing our cause until we’ve won Food for All Oregonians.**



**FEDERAL FARM BILL:** SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program also known as Food Stamps/EBT) is a key anti-hunger program in the U.S. that has a wide and deep impact on our communities. This year, as Congress negotiates the Farm Bill (the federal bill which includes SNAP), **Oregon Food Bank will organize our communities to inform legislators about critical improvements to SNAP and other food assistance programs this legislation can make possible.**

**One in six Oregonians uses SNAP to buy the foods they need to live — 17% of Oregon’s overall population.** After pandemic emergency benefits were eliminated this year, surveys of SNAP users from the U.S. Census Bureau showed 44% of SNAP users had to skip meals, nearly half reported that they couldn’t afford the kinds of foods they wanted and 54% reported cutting back on food intake. The choice to cut SNAP benefits for people who don’t have dependents means 33,000 individuals in Oregon will lose access to food.

**At OFB, we have already seen a sharp rise in need. And our advocacy will address this, influencing the Farm Bill to ensure:**

- **Everyone who needs SNAP should get SNAP.** Millions of food insecure individuals are excluded or have limited access to the program’s critical benefits.
- **SNAP benefit levels should match the true cost of food.** This is especially important given food price inflation.
- **The process to access SNAP shouldn’t be dehumanizing and complicated.** For households with older adults or people with disabilities, enrollment criteria vary widely and do not reflect mobility and transportation challenges. Improvements can be made for older adults, college students, immigrants and others who face eligibility and enrollment barriers.
- **There should be fair food assistance for the U.S. territories.** U.S. citizens in Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are excluded from SNAP. Eligibility for the Nutrition Assistance Program in those territories is highly restrictive with lower benefits and greater instability.
- **SNAP should support sovereignty for Native communities.** Congress should work with Tribal leaders to strengthen food security and allow Tribal governments flexibility to administer federal programs as decided by the tribe. Congress should not deny SNAP participants to also receive the benefits of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

**I hope you’ll join OFB and make your voice heard to Congress in the year ahead!** Learn more and stay connected by signing on to our petition today: [OregonFoodBank.org/ProtectSnap](https://OregonFoodBank.org/ProtectSnap)





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## REALIZING A FUTURE WITHOUT HUNGER: TAKING ACTION

Back at Lomita Farm, Gonzalo is growing culturally-significant foods from where he grew up in Oaxaca, in southern Mexico, like tomatillos, tomatoes, peppers and mais, as well as herbs native to Mexico and Guatemala, like pitona (a form of lemon verbena), epazote (often used to flavor beans) and papalo.

Gonzalo shares, “It’s healing for me to be able to grow foods that are culturally significant for me, my grandparents and my family. **It’s also healing for a lot of folks who are also immigrants, who have left Mexico and other places, for me to be able to grow this food and to share it with them, to bring them a little piece of their home and to give them some joy.**”

Gonzalo, Brian, Shantae, shiny and Cayle remind us that we can cultivate a future free from hunger in a greenhouse, fields of harvest and the statehouse.

**A more joyful and more just future simply requires action rooted in love for our neighbors — contacting a legislator, sharing a freshly picked herb, volunteering and donating. Actions each of us can take.**

**Your donation to OFB of [\$VALUE] by December 31 can be such an action.** And I hope to hear from you soon! You are always welcome to contact me with any questions or feedback at [\[Solicit\\_Phone\]](#) or [\[Solicit\\_Email\]@OregonFoodBank.org](#). You have my deep gratitude for all you do!

**[Primary\_Solicitor], ([primary solicitor pronouns]), Oregon Food Bank**

[Primary\_Solicitor\_Title]