

FOOD MATTERS!

FALL 2026



Rethink Hunger: Join us this September for Hunger Action Month

Hunger happens in all corners of our state. Even if it impacts each of us differently, hunger connects us.

This September is Hunger Action Month, a time when people across the country join together to help end hunger. We're taking action for all Oregonians, from Tillamook to Ontario.

Oregonians' budgets are stretched thin, as the cost of living continues to climb faster than wages. At the same time, the federal administration is cutting vital food assistance that we rely on to put food on the table.

It's time to Rethink Hunger and end hunger for good.

Take action at OregonFoodBank.org/HungerActionMonth ✨

"Hunger shows up quietly, in skipped meals and hard choices. What happens in Salem matters to families across the state, and the decisions lawmakers make determine who gets to eat and who doesn't."

—Adrienne Sampson, Oregon Food Bank's Policy Leadership Council

TAKE ACTION



We need to Rethink Hunger

My great-grandmother Francisca was a sugarcane harvester and pineapple cannery worker in Hawaii. She worked hard, but at times, even she didn't have enough to eat.

I have thought about that contradiction for as long as I can remember. A woman whose hands fed others went to bed hungry herself. At some point, I stopped calling it a contradiction and started calling it what it is.

A choice that someone else made about whose labor matters and whose hunger counts.



September is Hunger Action Month, a call for all of us to come together to help end hunger and its root causes. It is a time to donate, volunteer and take action. And this year, we're asking you to rethink something: the story we tell about why people go hungry.

For fifty years, the story has gone like this: some people have, some people do not, and the generous ones in the middle make up the difference. It is a feel-good story, and it has carried us far. But it is an incomplete story. And incomplete stories produce incomplete solutions.

That's why, this Hunger Action Month, we are asking people to rethink what they believe is possible when it comes to ending hunger. Not a story told about communities, but one shaped with communities, from Ontario to Astoria and Redmond to Roseburg. Aimed not at sympathy but at solidarity. We are asking people to make the shift from feeling generous to feeling responsible.

My great-grandmother never told her own story. But her story is why I do this work: because I believe we can build a state, in every corner of it, where no one knows hunger.

This September, join us. Whether you donate, volunteer or speak with your neighbors and elected leaders, wherever you live, every action moves us closer to ending hunger and its root causes.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrea Williams
Oregon Food Bank President

Vote out hunger

November 3 is Election Day — and hunger is on the ballot.

Hunger isn't a personal failure. It's a policy failure. Hunger happens because of choices about jobs, wages, housing, health care and where resources go.

We feel the strain of those choices every day. And people across Oregon are forced to make impossible choices about whether to put food on the table or go to the doctor or pay for childcare.

This is the reality of hunger in 2026. But the solution isn't food alone. We can serve everyone in line at a meal site or pantry today, but if we don't change the policies that cause unaffordable housing, low wages, health care costs and barriers to SNAP, those lines will still be there tomorrow.

Together, we can make a statement at that ballot box and vote for policymakers that support solutions to hunger.

Make sure you are registered at your current Oregon address and don't forget these important dates:

October 13: Last day to register to vote

October 14: First day ballots will be mailed to voters

November 3: Election Day

On November 3, vote like food is on the line — because it is.

Sign up for action alerts at
OregonFoodBank.org/ActionAlerts ✦

Our statewide response to wildfires

Extreme weather events caused by climate change, like wildfires, disrupt food supply chains, leading to increased and unpredictable prices, increased risk of food deserts and fewer fresh fruits and vegetables. And as wildfires spread across Oregon this summer, farmworkers across the state continued to work under blankets of smoke. "We are here out of necessity. We have to work," farmworker Rosa Mendoza shared in a July OPB article. In addition to deploying resources, Oregon Food Bank brought food and supplies to the fields to support essential workers like Rosa.

Read the OPB feature at
OregonFoodBank.org/FarmWorkerWildfireSupport ✦



Eddie Melendrez, community organizer for Oregon Food Bank, hands farmworkers resources on July 24, 2026, in Ontario, OR, as smoky conditions and soaring temperatures continue. *Monica Carrillo-Casas / OPB*



Michelle Week of ʔast sqʔit (Good Rain Farm), who grows culturally significant First Foods.

Small-scale producers **make big impact**

Since 2021, Oregon Food Bank has given over \$2 million to local growers, ranchers and farmers across 19 counties in Oregon, as well as Native and Tribal fishers along the Columbia River.

Through the Community Producer Support Fund, producers receive funding to grow fresh, culturally relevant food and provide families experiencing hunger increased access to these nourishing foods.

For one farmer, Michelle Week of ʔast sqʔit (Good Rain Farm), who grows culturally significant First Foods, the fund provided the opportunity to distribute over 7,000 pounds of fresh produce per year to Native-led organizations and businesses.

“The Community Producer Support Fund has helped expand my farm through investment in our community and feeding our community,” said Michelle, “as well as investments into time-saving and body-saving, more ergonomic-friendly equipment to help weed, harvest and cultivate the land.”

From 2022-2025, the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provided an additional \$7 million to Oregon Food Bank’s program.

“The LFPA funds allowed me to connect with my local libraries to distribute produce to folks in areas with limited access to fresh food,” said Bobbi Wilson, farmer of Uphill Farm.

Oregon was expected to receive an additional \$4.7 million in LFPA funding to continue the popular program past September 30, 2025, but the federal administration canceled that funding. Nearly 400 producers, including Michelle, lost reliable funding to stabilize their farms and strengthen local food systems.

Still, Oregon Food Bank continues to invest in producers. The program remains a lifeline, helping farmers grow their businesses, pass knowledge to the next generation and preserve cultural practices.

Support the Community Producer Support Fund at OregonFoodBank.org/Donate

Bridging the Gap: De Rose Community Bridge leads with lived experience

At 5:30 a.m., people are already waiting outside De Rose Community Bridge near 99th and East Burnside in Portland. From a modest house, trays of mandazi, coffee and cooked meals are handed out alongside boxes of groceries.

Many of the 200-300 people who gather here every Saturday are immigrants and refugees. Many are navigating housing instability and low wages. Founder Dr. Roseline Yunusa Vakka understands those realities because she has lived them.

"When you are counting every meal, when you are stretching rice so your children can eat, it changes you," Rose said. "You never forget that feeling."

In just two years, visits to the Oregon Food Bank Network rose 51%, reaching a record 2.9 million visits last year. Community leaders like Rose are stepping up to meet the growing need.

"I am not the hero," Rose said. "We are all just people serving one another."

Learn more about De Rose Community Bridge at:
OregonFoodBank.org/RoseV ✨



Founder Dr. Roseline Yunusa Vakka

An evening at Bloom: working together for a future without hunger

On June 6, our community came together for an evening of joy, connection and meaningful action toward food justice at our annual gathering, Bloom.

Together, nearly 400 volunteers, advocates, donors and partners gathered to imagine a future free from hunger. Our community made over 250 inspirational actions and commitments — to donate, volunteer and advocate — to make that future a reality.

In the room, we felt the energy of the food justice movement. We witnessed connections being made among those who care deeply about this work. We shared and heard one another's stories. We saw that

each of us has the power to do something right now in the movement to end hunger.

This year's Bloom brought our gratitude for our community to the forefront. None of us can end hunger alone. But together, action by action, we can rethink what we believe is possible. We can believe in — and work toward — an Oregon where no one knows hunger.

Relive this year's magic at
OregonFoodBank.org/Bloom
and save the date for next
year's **Bloom! June 5, 2027.**



Deep gratitude to our partners in ending hunger!



Safeway Albertsons
Foundation

The Alberta S. Kimball - Mary L.
Anhaltzer Foundation

Wheeler Foundation

The Collins Foundation

New Seasons Market

Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust

Oregon Tuna Classic

Feeding America

Clark Foundation

William G. Gilmore Foundation

Portland General Electric

Multnomah County

Popeyes Foundation

Cambia Health Solutions

Feeding America

The Littlefield Giving Fund

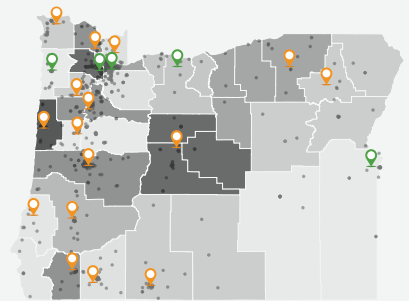
Washington County



Give today to help end hunger

Visit OregonFoodBank.org/Give
or mail a donation to
7900 NE 33rd Drive, Portland, OR 97211

Food is available to those who need it



Our network includes 1,200+ free food markets, pantries and meal sites throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington — and many locations offer contactless pickup or delivery options.

Food is available to those who need it - no proof of gender or immigration status required.

Find food assistance sites near you at OregonFoodFinder.org — now available in 19 languages commonly spoken in the Pacific Northwest.



OregonFoodBank.org
503-282-0555



@oregonfoodbank