

FOOD **FOR** ALL  
OREGONIANS

# Food for All Oregonians (FFAO)

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A Campaign by Oregon Food Bank  
and Hunger-Free Oregon

# AGENDA

- Campaign Overview
- Community Input Phase
- Solutions & Strategies
- Path to Victory
- How can you support?

# Campaign Overview

## Coordinating Organizations



STEERING COMMITTEE



LatinoNetwork



CANN



# The Problem

Despite significant investments, state food assistance policies continue to leave too many Oregonians behind, with programs that exclude huge portions of our communities based on immigration status and other arbitrary factors. Among the roughly 62,000 individuals in Oregon who are barred from accessing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), sometimes called “food stamps”, and other vital programs are:

- Lawful Permanent Residents under the 5-year bar
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) participants
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members
- People with Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Undocumented immigrants
- Anyone in the process of seeking asylum

## Our Vision

Food is a Human Right – and everyone in Oregon should have access to food, no matter where we were born.

We envision an Oregon, and a country, with an equitable and just immigration system that ensures immigration status does not perpetuate poverty or limits access to our safety net. We see a future where state-funded food assistance for immigrant Oregonians is a first step to all services being available and accessible to EVERYONE.

# Our Goals

To develop, pass and implement a policy recommendation that will establish a new program to provide food assistance benefits for immigrant, refugees and Compact of Free Association (COFA) communities in our state.

To build the capacity and amplify the leadership of individuals and organizations of/by/for immigrant, refugee and COFA communities in our state.

To build a lasting movement of individuals and organizations that will work together toward our vision of all services being available to EVERYONE.



**Questions?**

# Community Input

# Community Input: Community Centered Solutions

Overview of the community input phase:

- Listening circles, one-on-ones, & online survey were conducted for a three month period in spring of 2022
- Responses were analyzed for trends and patterns to inform the policy concept
- Members of the steering committee helped with input, feedback, synthesis of the community input analysis
- Sought advice and expertise from key national, state, & local partners

# Community Input: What did it look like?

- Partnered with 14 immigrant, refugee, and COFA led organizations who conducted this work in their respective communities
- Reached 13 counties across Oregon, and with almost 400 community members connected with through this work
- Hosted community input activities included 18 listening circles, many one on one conversations and an online survey
- Conducted activities in 16 languages, with 20+ diverse communities represented
- Worked with Oregon State University (OSU) to analyze results, and identify trends & patterns that informed the crafting of a policy concept

# Community Input: What did we learn?

## General trends

- More difficult for households to afford food with rising food costs
- Healthier foods are often too expensive and not available in local stores, food banks and pantries
- Low-cost grocery stores are located too far away and culturally-specific or -appropriate food is not readily available

## Immigration status related concerns

- Fear that accessing benefits would impact their immigration status or ability to change status in the future
- General feeling of uncertainty & unease about accessing benefits - most indicated they were unwilling to access benefits due to this fear
- General misinformation about program eligibility and what programs are considered public charge criteria, especially for SNAP

# What did we learn? (continued)

## Language and information barriers

- Information and resource access in native language is often not available and barrier to understanding: the application process, the application questions, program rules, program benefits, and how to ask questions.
- “No one is helping me” - Information about food assistance was difficult to access and understand.
- Lack of information about services, leading to either lack of knowledge about programs or whether their household is eligible

**Questions?**

# Strategies & Solutions



# The Food for All Oregonians policy

SB 610 has been introduced in the 2023 Legislative Session! Here are the main components of the bill:

- Extends same eligibility and benefit criteria as the federal SNAP program to currently excluded populations (5 yr bar, DACA, TPS, undocumented, COFA communities).
- Funds a language accessible, community navigator program to ensure outreach to community members is based on trust, support, and safety. Individuals would be able to reach out to navigators for information, assistance applying, and the screening/eligibility process
- Integrates application process with Healthier Oregon so that community members can apply with a navigator for both health care and food assistance at the same time.
- Explores ways to make applying for assistance more culturally-responsive and welcoming at Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS).

# Legislative Sponsors

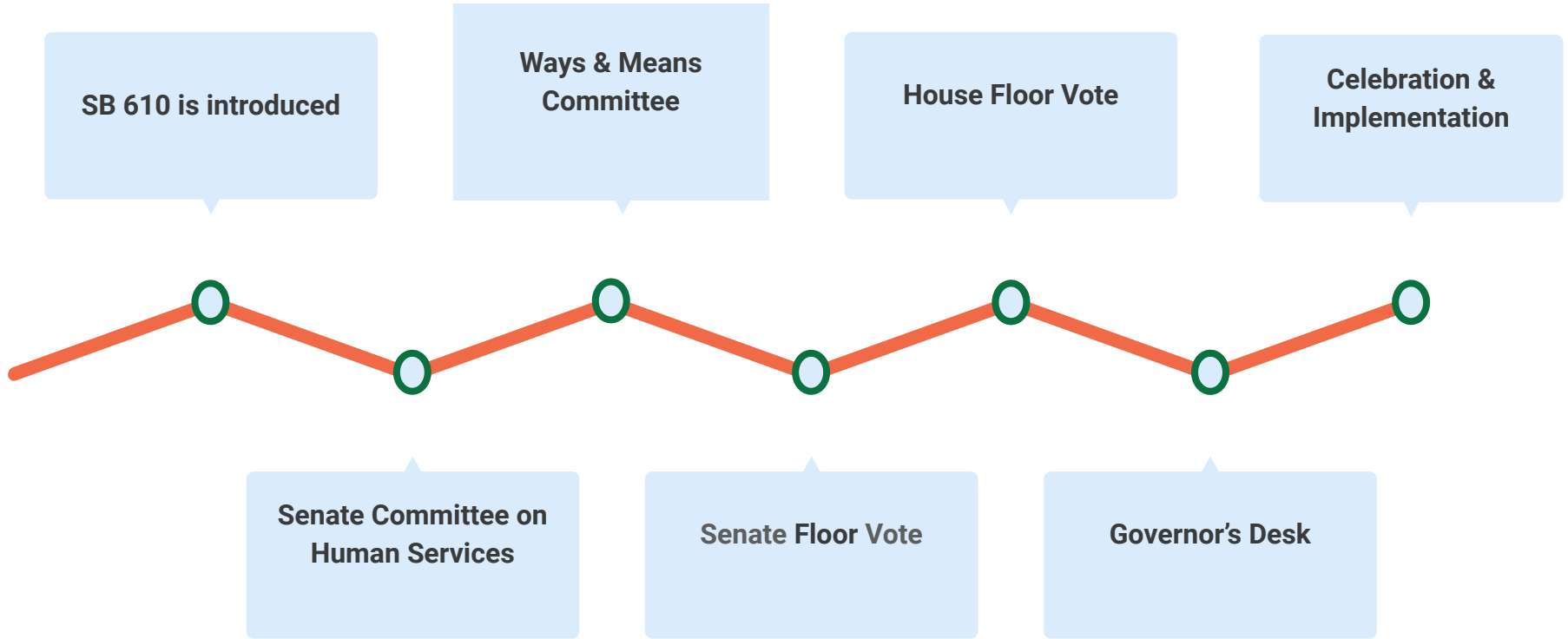
## Chief Sponsors:

- Sen. Campos (SD 18) (Champion)
- Sen. Manning (SD 7)
- Sen. Gorsek (SD 25)
- Rep. Dexter (HD 33)
- Rep. Gamba (HD 41)
- Rep. Bowman (HD 25)
- Rep. Ruiz (HD 50)

## Regular Sponsors:

- Sen. Dembrow (SD 23)
- Rep. Grayber (HD 35)
- Rep. Hudson (HD 49)
- Sen. Jama (SD 24)
- Rep. Nelson (HD 44)
- Rep. Neron (HD 26)
- Sen. Patterson (SD 10)
- Rep. Pham (HD 46)
- Sen. Woods (SD 13)

# Legislative Path



**Questions?**

**How can you support?**

## Ways to engage & support FFAO:

- Sign the [FFAO Supporter Pledge](#) to become part of our growing network and receive critical campaign updates
- If your organization would like to endorse the FFAO Campaign and join our growing coalition; please complete this [form](#).
- Host a FFAO Community Forum with your base/members. [Sign up here!](#)
- Visit [FoodForAllOR.org](#) for more information
- Talk to your family and friends about why this issue is important to you and make sure they also complete the FFAO Supporter Pledge.
- Take Direct Action Now (when applicable)

# FFAO Staff Contacts

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**Questions?**

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