

OUR VISION

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Food is a Human Right – and everyone in Oregon should have access to food, no matter where we were born. Our freedom, our health, our ability to thrive all depend on access to food that is nutritious and culturally familiar. We're working to ensure that immigration status no longer drives hunger and poverty in our communities – that where we're from doesn't exclude us from access to Oregon's safety net.

THE CHALLENGE WE FACE

Hunger was a crisis in our communities before the pandemic, and the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have fallen hardest on newly-arrived Oregonians. Immigrants, refugees and Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members, in particular, have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon. Just one example: Latinx and Pacific Islander families experienced hunger at twice the rate of White Oregonians pre-pandemic – and this gap has only widened as our communities continue to struggle in COVID's wake.

Despite significant investments, state food assistance policies continue to leave more than 62,000 Oregonians behind, with programs that exclude huge portions of our communities. Shame, stigma and language barriers are built into existing rules, within a system that traces back to a long history of racism and White supremacy in Oregon. These systemic challenges are layered on top of specific exclusions from vital programs like SNAP (sometimes called "food stamps") based on immigration status.

When everyone in our communities has access to food, we are all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon – in rural, urban and suburban communities alike – and we're building the community

power needed to transform the systems that perpetuate racism and anti-immigrant discrimination.

FOOD FOR ALL OREGONIANS

We know that people who have experienced hunger and poverty are in the best position to determine meaningful solutions. The Food for All Oregonians campaign conducted listening circles, one-on-one meetings and large-scale surveys statewide with community members who have this lived expertise – drawing perspectives from diverse immigrant, refugee and COFA communities.

Conversations across rural, urban and suburban Oregon make it clear that we need an equitable food assistance system that works for all of us. Hunger affects everyone in our communities, and many Oregonians who are not immigrants or refugees face food insecurity due to related systemic issues. By centering people who are most impacted – those of us who are left behind by current policies and programs – we can create a system that benefits all Oregonians.

Together, our community will soon introduce legislation to create a state funded program that ensures everyone in Oregon has access to the food we need.

Food for All Oregonians Steering Committee

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