

FOOD MATTERS!

SPRING 2026



An Oregon EBT card, used to access SNAP benefits. The SNAP program will see new limits due to H.R. 1

How historic cuts to SNAP affect Oregonians

On July 4, 2025, Congress passed H.R. 1 (also known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill”), a bill that includes the largest and most harmful cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) in history – an unprecedented \$186 billion. Over the next 9 years, the bill’s provisions will take away food, health coverage and other basic needs in order to fund tax cuts for the ultra-wealthy and increase funding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the military.

An estimated one million children nationwide will lose food assistance. Local grocery stores that rely on SNAP dollars will suffer. Thousands of us

Oregonians who are already struggling will have to sacrifice even more to make ends meet. We are heartbroken, alongside our Oregon Food Bank community, by this harmful policy choice.

Read the full story at
OregonFoodBank.org/HR1Impact ✳



To find free food near you, go to
OregonFoodFinder.org

What 2.9 million visits tell us

As I write this, Oregon's legislative session is nearing its final days. Lawmakers are making decisions that will shape whether families across our state can afford groceries, keep stable housing and cover unexpected costs in the year ahead.



Earlier this month, I stood on the Capitol steps to deliver Oregon Food Bank's annual State of Hunger Address. I shared what our staff, partners and volunteers see every day across the Oregon Food Bank Network: Lines are longer. Visits are more frequent. Families are making impossible choices between food, rent, health care and child care. When I spoke with legislators afterward, many told me they are hearing the same stories in their districts.

The numbers back this up. Last year, the Oregon Food Bank Network recorded 2.9 million visits to food assistance sites, the highest number in our history. In just two years, visits have increased by 51 percent. Today one in seven people, including one in six kids, in Oregon and Southwest Washington face food insecurity. And the amount of food available through food banks is not keeping up with the growing need.

This gap is not because of personal choices. It is because policies are falling short. SNAP remains the most effective tool we have to prevent hunger. In Oregon, nearly 18 percent of residents rely on SNAP, thanks to strong outreach and enrollment efforts that help families access benefits they qualify for. The scale of SNAP is unmatched; SNAP provides seven meals for every one meal provided by food banks in Oregon. Unfortunately, recent federal cuts and disruptions to SNAP mean families are losing support at the very moment costs are rising.

We have seen what works. During the pandemic, expanded social safety net benefits helped families stay fed and reduced hunger. As those supports were rolled back, hunger surged again. We cannot "food bank" our way out of this crisis. We also need the scale and scope of supportive governmental systems to truly tackle hunger.

As this legislative session closes, the choices made now will matter for hundreds of thousands of families. Thank you for being with us, for showing up and for helping push for policies that ensure everyone can put food on the table.

With momentum,

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

Andrea Williams

Oregon Food Bank President

Our growing **Spanish-speaking audience**

Oregon's Latine communities care deeply about food justice. That's why we are meeting that commitment with intentional investment in Spanish-language presence online. It's paying off: between December 2024 and December 2025, our Spanish language social media engagement increased by 25 percent, with post shares up by 85 percent. Here's an example of a post that got lots of love online:

OregonFoodBank.org/Social-Growth ✨

Community care looks like this — follow us and share the impact.



@oregonfoodbank



Sylvia Ixta on **working for her community**

When Sylvia Ixta was struggling to feed her family, a friend who happened to be a community health worker helped connect Sylvia to free food. That experience resonated deeply. "That's when I knew I wanted to go into community health," Sylvia said.

Today, it's a big part of Sylvia's job at Valley Family Health Care in Ontario, Oregon, to help patients who are having trouble affording food find food. She also connects them with much-needed housing assistance, day care, clothing and transportation. Since many work in seasonal agricultural jobs with long and uncertain hours, finding food and other resources is especially tricky.

"During the harvest, some people start at dawn and don't get off until eight or nine o'clock in the evening," Sylvia explained. "By the time they get to a food pantry, it's no longer open."



The way Sylvia sees it, nourishing food is a path to health and healing on every level: "When we can increase someone's access to healthy food, we can dramatically increase their well-being," she said. "I want to help people who need support because I've been in their shoes." Read the full story here:

OregonFoodBank.org/Sylvia ✨

"I want to help people who need support because I've been in their shoes."

—SYLVIA IXTA,
Community Health Worker and
OFB Food Systems Ambassador



A community member's child at the grocery store, as families are being pushed into food insecurity across our region

The State of Hunger in 2026

Every year, we compile key statistics that give us a snapshot of how hunger is affecting our communities. This year's numbers are stark: hunger is at record levels. Rising costs, unequal rules and policy decisions are pushing more families into food insecurity across Oregon and Southwest Washington. Here are the key facts behind the crisis.

- In just two years, visits to the Oregon Food Bank Network rose 51%, reaching a record 2.9 million visits last year.
- The Oregon Food Bank Network distributed more than 98 million meals last year.
- Today one in seven people, including one in six kids, in Oregon and Southwest Washington face food insecurity, from Ontario to Portland to Clark County.
- Economic and historic policies have made it two to three times more likely for Black, Indigenous and Communities of Color, immigrants and refugees, single moms and caregivers and trans and gender expansive communities to face hunger and poverty.
- Climate change and related natural disasters make food insecurity worse. Wildfires, flooding and ice storms regularly force thousands of our neighbors to leave their homes.
- In Oregon, SNAP provides seven meals for every one meal the Oregon Food Bank Network provides, making it the most effective anti-hunger program we have.
- 3,500+ people took action last year to advance anti-hunger policy and systems change.
- Nearly 31,000 donors gave to help end hunger last year – with the most common gift of \$25 given more than 19,000 times.

Learn more about the state of hunger in Oregon at OregonFoodBank.org/HungerFacts ✨

How OFB mobilized \$5 million to **protect families during the shutdown**

Early last October, the US Department of Agriculture announced that if the government shutdown continued past October 31, it would withhold the SNAP benefits of 750,000 Oregonians for the month of November.

When Governor Tina Kotek's office responded with \$5 million in emergency funding, Oregon Food Bank mobilized to ensure that no Oregonian would go hungry if the federal shutdown persisted. First we coordinated with regional partners to decide how to source food. We then expanded storage, acquired extra equipment and added staff to manage the flow of food to our statewide warehouse and then onto

the regional food banks that supply pantries, shelters and meal sites — thanks to exceptional teamwork.

"It takes an enormous amount of planning and hard work to move millions of pounds of food across the state safely and effectively," said Oregon Food Bank Vice President Danny Faccinetti. "I'm incredibly proud of our team here at OFB as well as our regional and local partners who are working as hard as they can to get this food out to our community."

Read the full story here:

OregonFoodBank.org/EmergencyFunding ✦

Feeling inspired to give?

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



Connecting **gender justice to food justice**

In 2025, Oregon Food Bank's Policy Leadership Council — the group that guides our policy and advocacy work — added Gender and Reproductive Justice to our Systems Change Platform.

Transgender and gender-expansive communities experience some of the highest rates of food insecurity nationwide, especially those of us who are Black, Indigenous or other People of Color. So it's fitting that Gender and Reproductive Justice now stands with the following six pillars: Housing for All; Healthy Environment/Healthy People; Economic and Worker Justice; Community Safety and Transformative

Justice; Indigenous Liberation and Tribal Sovereignty; and Immigrant Justice.

In addition to supporting House Bill 2002 (Reproductive Health & Access to Care) in 2023, which protected access to reproductive and gender-affirming care in Oregon, we advocate for policies that connect gender justice to food justice, recognizing that health care, family support and workplace protections are all part of ending hunger and its root causes. Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/SystemsChange ✦

Together we are ending hunger!

In response to last October's government shutdown, which threatened to disrupt Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, our community mobilized to make sure Oregonians had enough to eat. Thousands of supporters raised \$130,000 by the end of November — a beautiful demonstration of how Oregonians show up for one another during a crisis. Our corporate partners generously provided supplemental funds to address the SNAP emergency. Thank you to the following corporate partners for your quick action:

Portland General Electric • OnPoint Community Credit Union • Fred Meyer • Safeway Albertsons • Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods, Inc • Market of Choice • Kaiser Permanente • Cambia Health Foundation



Thank you, **Intel Foundation** for your gift, allowing OFB to implement programs that provide our community members with meals, resources, comfort and empowerment during these challenging times!

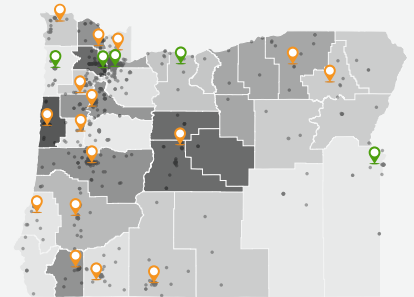


Drive Change Fund

Thank you, to **DEQ's Oregon Clean Fuels Programs and PGE**, for supporting organizations like ours in the journey toward a cleaner, greener future.

Ameriprise Financial • Applied Materials Foundation • Caliber Collision Centers • CoBank • CoreWeave • Deckers Outdoor Corporation • Feeding America • First Tech Credit Union • Ford Foundation • Genentech, Inc • Lamb Weston Foundation • Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation • Multnomah County • Northwest Grocers • Nourishing Neighbors • Safeway Albertsons Foundation • Nutrien • OnPoint Community Credit Union • Portland Children's Levy • Providence Health Plan • Roundhouse Foundation • Starbucks Coffee Company • The Hardison Family Foundation • The Macauley Foundation

Food is available to all 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 — and no one in our network will ask you to show proof of gender identity or immigration status. Ever.

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