

April 2004

# Act to End Hunger

40 ways in five years to make a difference



Oregon  
Hunger  
Relief  
Task  
Force



## Acknowledgements

**Funding for this report provided by:** the Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger and the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force.

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**A special thanks** to everyone who helped by reviewing the plan and providing content guidance, including:

- Jeanne Arana, Oregon Housing and Community Services
- Michael Leachman, Oregon Center for Public Policy
- Kim Thomas, Cassandra Garrison, Angela Harris, and Pam Pedigo, Oregon Food Bank
- Tina Kotek, Children First for Oregon
- Erinn Kelley-Siel, Human Services Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Kulongoski
- Arlene Samuelson, Oregon Food Bank board member
- Sharon Miller, Central Oregon Community Action
- Rocky Johnson, Community Action Team, Inc.
- Wendy Van Elverdinghe, Community Action Directors of Oregon
- Phillip Kennedy-Wong, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
- Norene Goplen, Lutheran Advocacy
- Dep Lippolt, Growing Gardens
- Janet Byrd, consultant
- Betty Izumi, OSU Cooperative Extension Service—Clackamas County
- Dan Sundseth, USDA Farm Service Agency
- Ron Martien, MOMM
- Ginny Hildebrand, Arizona Food Bank
- Kim Wade, California Food Bank Association
- Linda Stone, Western Region Anti-Hunger Consortium
- Crystal Fitzsimons, Food Research and Action Center
- Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force members and staff
- Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger members

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## INTRODUCTION

*“Oregonians have a proud reputation of coming together to solve tough problems to build a better future. One person alone can’t fight hunger. We can eliminate hunger if we all work together.”*

—Governor’s Proclamation for Oregon Harvest Week, October 10, 2003

Hunger affects and diminishes the lives of everyone in the community. It is more than a social concern or a condition of poverty. It reflects situations broader than problems with alcohol or drug use or mental health issues. Hunger has an impact on learning, on job performance, and on health care costs. It impacts virtually every aspect of our communities’ well-being.

The ranks of hungry and food insecure families now include middle class Oregonians, struggling to meet housing, healthcare, and childcare costs. Many employed families are faced with the prospect of visiting an emergency food pantry or joining a gleaning group in order to stretch their hard-earned dollars.

Thousands of Oregon’s residents lack food security. Many are hungry for extended periods of time. In response, Oregon has a large network of services to respond to hunger. These essential programs represent an astounding investment of time and dollars. However, instead of ending hunger, these programs only are able to alleviate hunger on a day to day basis.

Ending hunger requires substantial changes in our social and economic infrastructure. Simply put, Oregonians must have enough income to pay for food and other essential needs. Oregonians must be able to secure living wage income in order to end hunger.

**Act to End Hunger** is inspired by the community interest in hunger evident at Governor Ted Kulongoski’s Hunger Summit in 2003. We hope to build upon the relationships and energy generated by that event. This document is designed to give Oregonians a focus and guide to help eliminate hunger in Oregon. We hope to inspire Oregon’s leaders in business, community and government by identifying concrete, achievable actions.

While not everyone will agree with all the proposed solutions, this plan is a vehicle to make hunger in Oregon central to a wide range of public policy debates and decisions. Work must occur at state, local and neighborhood levels in order to be effective.

This plan contains recommendations and immediate steps needed to ensure steady progress toward ending hunger in Oregon.

**Act to End Hunger** is also a living document. As we make progress towards solutions and as our economic landscape changes, we will revise the recommendations of this plan.

## CALL TO ACTION

### Implementers: The Power to Make a Difference

*“We can only win the fight against hunger if we all work together — government, business, nonprofits, the faith community and every individual.”*

— Governor Ted Kulongoski, Announcing Oregon Harvest Week, October 10, 2003

**Act to End Hunger** is designed to provide a **common resource**, a **common language** and a **common agenda** for collective advocacy and action against hunger. It is a **tool** to help us work together and make a concrete difference.

This plan provides a “**menu**” of **actions** for Oregon’s leaders and those in various sectors of the state. It provides multiple answers to the question, “What can we do to eliminate hunger?”

Those who can make a difference on hunger and who have recommendations for action in the immediate priorities that follow are:



- Agricultural Sector (Actions 16, 19, 37)
- Business, Industry and Financial Institutions (Actions 2, 12, 19, 25, 37)
- Education Sector (Actions 2, 25, 33)
- Faith-Based Organizations and Communities (Actions 4, 12, 15, 25, 37)
- Federal Government (Actions 2, 19, 25, 33)
- Foundations (Actions 2, 16, 19, 25, 29, 37)
- Individual Oregonians (Actions 25, 37)
- Local and Regional Governments (Actions 2, 15, 19, 25, 29)
- Media (Educate public on Actions 2, 4, 12, 15; assist with Action 25)
- Non-Profit Organizations (all)
- State Government (2, 4, 12, 15, 16, 25, 29, 36)

For the entire list of Implementers and Recommended Actions, See Appendix, Page 22.

## **Immediate Priorities (2004-2005)**

While every one of the 40 Recommended Actions in this plan is important, we suggest that implementers focus first on the following priorities:

### **Family Economic Stability**

2. Increase tuition assistance for low-income students seeking higher education, and implement the Parents as Scholars Program to allow parents on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to pursue the education necessary to secure higher paying jobs.
4. Create a tax credit for low-income families who are renting.
12. Make the Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit refundable and increase the value to eliminate state taxes for people living below the federal poverty level.
15. Reinstate the General Assistance program to provide adequate support for disabled, extremely low-income individuals.

### **Community Food Security**

16. Establish a statewide Food Policy Council to assess statewide needs, propose solutions, and provide coordination among local food policy councils.
19. Support Farmers' Markets and small farmers in their efforts to accept food stamps through the addition of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) technology to their markets.

### **Federal Food Programs**

25. Fund outreach, education, and technical assistance in Oregon communities where there is low participation in federal food programs, especially the Food Stamp Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the After School Snack and Meal Program.
29. Fund start-up costs and provide supplemental meal reimbursement to boost participation in the Summer Food Service Program and the After School Snack and Meal Program.
33. Increase participation in the Summer Food Service Program by lowering area eligibility rates from school areas where 50% or more of the children are eligible for free and reduced price meals to 40%, and expand the Lugar pilot nationwide to simplify program operations.

### **Emergency Food Services**

36. Maintain a contribution from the state General Fund each biennium to the Oregon Food Bank statewide network.
37. Increase private efforts to build community capacity of regional food banks and local agencies to generate more food and funds for their local communities.

## HUNGER IN OREGON

*Jennifer and Phillip can't go food shopping until Thursday. They're doing okay right now because they have food boxes, but the seven dollars in their checking account is not very reassuring. Andrew, their sixteen-month-old son, isn't yet convinced that cheaper adult food is very tasty, but they can usually get him to eat enough off of their plates to be satisfied. Ever since Phillip got out of the military, life has been more tenuous for all of them. Jennifer says, "It was a pretty sudden change.*

*We had lived paycheck to paycheck, but we didn't have to go get a food box or pay bills late." Food boxes and late bills are now a fact of life. Phillip hasn't been able to find a decent job. Jennifer works as many hours as possible at the photo lab, and it's still not enough. After rent, utilities, medical supplies for Jennifer's diabetes, car insurance, and buying only some of the food they need, their \$1300 a month income is gone. They often pay bills late in order to have enough money to buy food.*

*As Jennifer says, "It's a struggle every day."*

- There are significant numbers of people in Oregon who are hungry or at risk of hunger because they can't afford to buy food.
- Most Oregonians who are hungry do not have enough income to meet their basic needs, including nutritious food.
- Oregon is an agriculturally rich state and yet many of our residents are food poor.

***Oregon has had one of the highest rates of hunger in the nation for each of the last 5 years.***

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines hunger as "a circumstance in which an individual unwillingly goes without food for an intermittent or extended period of time." According to a report from the USDA, 5% of Oregon households (175,235 people) were food insecure with hunger during 2000-2002, significantly greater than the national average of 3% (Household Food Security in the United States, 2002).

***Oregon's rate for food insecurity is also high.***

The USDA defines food insecurity as "the limited or uncertain availability of safe, nutritionally adequate food that can be obtained in socially acceptable ways." In homes that are food insecure, Oregonians may have to cut back on meals and may fend off hunger by eating poor quality foods. These families are typically on the verge of running out of money for food. They may seek help from other places, such as food box programs, to avoid hunger. The percentage of households in Oregon who are food insecure is 13.7%, the seventh highest rate in the nation.

About 512,000 Oregonians live in food insecure households (Household Food Security in the United States, 2002).

***Increasing numbers of Oregonians are seeking help from emergency food programs.***

The Oregon Food Bank reports a 55% increase in demand for emergency food boxes from 1998 to 2003. Hungry Oregonians also resort to finding essential nutrition in soup kitchens, congregate dining and home delivered meal programs.

***Hunger is prevalent in near poor households.***

One in five households in Oregon with incomes under \$16,000 is food insecure. In other states, food insecurity rates among this lowest income group are also high. However, in Oregon, moving up the economic ladder doesn't protect families from food insecurity as much as it does elsewhere. According to the Oregon State University report, "Food Insecurity and Hunger in Oregon: A New Look," 20% of Oregon households with incomes between \$16,000 and \$30,000 are also food insecure, compared to just 13% in other states, not including Washington state.

***Oregon's children are significantly impacted by hunger.***

Households with children are twice as likely as households without children to be food insecure.

- More than one in five Oregon children (21.7%) lives in a food insecure household.
- One in fifteen Oregon children lives in a home that is so financially strapped that at least one household member goes hungry at times (Oregon Center for Public Policy Analysis of US Census Food Security Supplement to Current Population Survey).
- Oregon Food Bank reports that, of those who ate meals from emergency food boxes in 2002-03, 40% were children 17 years old or younger.

***Hunger has serious consequences for children.***

Children who live in food insecure households are at risk in a number of different ways, creating problems that are dramatic in their immediate consequences and tragic in their long-term effects. The adverse effects of hunger and food insecurity for children are over and above the effects of living in poverty or being low-income (Tufts University: Center on Hunger, Poverty, and Nutrition Policy, and Brandeis University: Center on Hunger and Poverty).

- **Health Risks:** A Brandeis University analysis states, "There is strong evidence that children who live in households lacking access to sufficient food are more likely to be in poorer health than children from food-secure households." There are also life long impacts when children are not able to develop healthy eating habits at an early age.

- ❶ ***Psychological and Behavioral Risks:*** Children in food insecure and hungry households are also more likely to experience considerable psychological and emotional distress, including hyperactivity, aggression, withdrawn behavior and difficulty getting along with other children.
- ❷ ***Developmental and Academic Risks:*** Hunger affects children's cognitive development. They are less likely to form friendships, to explore their surroundings, to be curious, to learn. These children are unable to perform tasks at school and to maintain attention, and have higher levels of absenteeism. The value of education is lost.
- ❸ ***Community Costs:*** Child hunger can produce impairments that remain throughout life, robbing children of their natural potential. The costs to our communities and the nation are great in lost productivity as adults and in increased social services for them over their lifetime.



***We've been asking the impossible of families when we could be making the possible happen!***

Low wage working families are trying to do the impossible. A low wage income cannot, no matter how well budgeted, meet the costs of all a family's basic needs – such as food, shelter, heat, childcare, health care, and transportation costs.

Offering families food when they need assistance is important. However, contributing food doesn't address the fundamental reasons families are hungry. In the end, individuals and families want to provide for themselves and need the opportunity to do so.

Families are responsible for making the effort to gain and maintain employment by being hard and honest workers. All of us are responsible for ensuring that hard and honest work offers families the dignity of choosing their food off of grocery store shelves with the money from their paychecks. **It's a matter of fairness.**

# Family Economic Stability

For most hungry Oregonians, hunger is an income issue. Full time work does not guarantee an income adequate to pay for basic necessities. Hungry and food insecure Oregonians are more likely to be children and their working parents.

The costs of covering a family's basic needs have risen significantly in the past decade. Housing costs have vastly outstripped wages. Energy, health care, childcare and transportation costs have also climbed. This has forced families to skimp on nutritious food in order to keep a roof over their heads, stay warm, obtain child and medical care, and pay for reliable transportation to get to work.

Oregon's families require well-paid jobs to ensure that they will become and remain food secure through the ups and downs of our economy. Asking Oregonians to work several jobs and more hours to avoid hunger is not the answer.

## Real Life Examples

Maine operates a successful Parents as Scholars program, providing an opportunity for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients to enroll in postsecondary institutions for the education and training necessary to obtain a family-wage job. Program graduates earn nearly \$4.00 per hour more than their counterparts leaving TANF without access to education.

### **Goal: Develop living wage opportunities for Oregonians.**

Oregon's job market has dramatically changed. Over the past few decades, Oregon has seen a shift in employment as the number of jobs in the service and retail sectors have increased and higher-paying jobs in the manufacturing and government sectors continue to decline. This is a contributing factor to hunger, as service and retail jobs tend to offer below-average earnings and often do not provide benefits. Oregonians in low-wage employment often work several jobs and more hours in order to avoid hunger and make ends meet.

In order to increase food security among Oregonians, we must make a solid investment in education, training and worker retraining programs. Such efforts can attract higher wage employers. Oregon has several education and workforce development programs, but access and affordability continue to be issues for low-income families, particularly in rural counties. Additionally, college costs have risen faster than wages, further limiting educational access for low-income residents.

### ***Recommended Actions:***

1. Protect Oregon's minimum wage and its current index for inflation.
2. Increase tuition assistance for low-income students seeking higher education and

- implement the Parents as Scholars Program to allow parents on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to pursue the education necessary to secure higher paying jobs.
3. Increase the number of jobs in Oregon that pay a living wage and encourage companies to employ residents of low-income communities.

**Goal: Strengthen family stability with programs that offset living expenses.**

Until incomes catch up with living expenses, working families need support programs in order to avoid hunger and maintain economic stability.

The high cost of housing relative to low wages increases the difficulty families face in trying to remain food secure. Health care and child care costs have also climbed. With stagnant, low wage levels, families will do without adequate food in order to pay for critical medicines and health services. Food may also be sacrificed in order to pay for the child care that will allow a parent to maintain employment.

***Recommended Actions:***

4. Create a tax credit for low-income families who are renting.
5. Secure adequate revenue to develop a sufficient number of affordable homes for Oregon's families through local and regional trust funds and the Oregon Housing Trust Fund.
6. Provide or increase healthcare benefits offered by businesses for employees.
7. Identify and secure additional revenue for the Oregon Health Plan to cover all low-income families (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level) without employer-provided health benefits and conduct outreach to those families. Reduce the cost of premiums and co-pays.
8. Increase the income limit to 185% of the federal poverty level for the Employment Related Day Care Program, reduce family copayments, and lessen the steep reduction in benefits as employees move up the income ladder.
9. Provide or increase childcare subsidies offered by businesses for employees.

**Goal: Revamp the tax and lending systems to protect low wage workers.**

Stability in Oregon's income tax system and adequate funding for services are both critical pieces of economic development. Businesses and healthy communities go hand in hand. The same services that draw individuals and families, including good schools, public safety, and transportation infrastructure, also draw businesses.

Currently, Oregon's tax system is not adequate to pay for the public services that Oregonians need to avoid hunger. The unemployment crisis in Oregon, and the subsequent drop in income

tax revenue, has resulted in programs being cut just at the time when they are most needed. Being vulnerable to the fluctuations in the economy, the tax system is not stable enough to provide increased services during economic downturns when more Oregonians are at risk of hunger.

In addition, according to the Citizens for Tax Justice Report “Who Pays,” Oregon’s income tax system is a regressive revenue source, with low-income residents paying a higher percentage of their income for state and local taxes than the highest income residents.

At the same time, pressure on low-wage families to pay for rent, food, and other necessities forces some to borrow against their paychecks through “payday loans.” Interest rates in Oregon can be as high as 500%, since there is no cap in this state.

Oregon’s tax and lending systems need to be reformed, but not at the expense of low-income families who already are struggling to avoid hunger. Any tax reform package must be progressive in nature and must include tax relief for Oregon’s low-income workers.

***Recommended Actions:***

10. Reconfigure the Personal Exemption Credit, making it higher for low-income families and phasing it out for well-off families to ensure that poor families pay a lower overall tax rate than higher-income families.
11. Establish a cap on interest rates charged for “payday loans.”
12. Make the Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit refundable and increase the value to eliminate state income taxes for people living below the federal poverty level.

**Goal: Create an adequate safety net for those unable to work.**

Safety net services are effective in limiting hunger amongst those unable to work due to temporary emergencies as well as age, illness, and serious disabilities. The essential safety net programs address the costs of food, housing, and health care and provide financial support to those unable to work.

***Recommended Actions:***

13. Expand the unemployment insurance system to allow more temporary and part-time workers to receive benefits and eliminate state taxes on unemployment insurance benefits.
14. Strengthen the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program by increasing eligibility levels and benefit amounts to serve more families and increase their stability.
15. Reinstate the General Assistance program to provide adequate support for disabled, extremely low-income individuals.

# Community Food Security

Community food security means:

- All people at all times have access to safe, nutritious, affordable, adequate and culturally appropriate food.
- All people can get their food from non-emergency sources.
- Food is produced, processed and distributed in ways that honor and preserve the environment and the workers who bring it to the marketplace and our tables.

Community food security is a powerful idea linking efforts in many sectors to change our food system to end hunger and to improve the system for all Oregonians.

Community food security envisions a system of growing, producing, manufacturing, processing, distributing and accessing nutritious food that is regionally based.

Oregon residents are increasingly engaged on issues of community food security. They are motivated to reduce hunger and also address the safety of their food supply with the ongoing concerns about mad cow disease, food-borne bacteria, genetic engineering and the possible impact of terrorism on a food delivery system relying on long-distance transport.

## Real Life Examples

When a new library was built, the City of Beaverton planned a multi-use space that could accommodate a farmers' market and host other public events. The market draws 12,000 weekend visitors who come to shop, play in a fountain, and check out books. It is also open on Wednesday evenings, bringing life to the area mid-week.

**Goal: Develop and support a sustainable regional food system through community-based solutions, with statewide coordination.**

Community food security combats hunger and improves nutrition by building a strong and resilient regional food system. This involves partnerships across disciplines:

- **Agriculture Industry** - Making small farms and local regional food production more viable and encouraging a more environmentally-based, sustainable way to grow food.
- **Public Health** - Encouraging the consumption of healthy foods within a nutritious diet.
- **Environmental Protection** - Reducing environmental stress from land use, transportation and energy practices connected to the food system.
- **Community Development** - Ensuring the availability of affordable food outlets in every neighborhood and community.

Just as government plays a role in planning for basic needs, such as housing, transportation and heat, state and local governments have a key role in planning for adequate access to quality

food. Food system planning, including food policy councils, can influence local food system performance by addressing market gaps that affect low-income consumers, family farmers and the environment.

***Recommended Actions:***

16. Establish a statewide Food Policy Council to assess statewide needs, propose solutions, and provide coordination among local food policy councils.
17. Support the development of local food policy councils to conduct assessment and planning to meet needs and support efforts.
18. Support the development of a database to provide information and to help coordinate community food security efforts across the state.

**Goal: Support local farmers and improve the nutrition of Oregonians.**

The family farm – or farming as a way of life – is in serious trouble. Our food system is becoming more centralized, consolidated and globally-oriented. Few of the foods available in local supermarkets are locally grown. This long-distance system puts local farmers at financial risk and reduces the control of consumers over the quality and affordability of food items.

Local farmers who sell direct to consumers, such as farmers' markets, receive a larger share of the profit from their food. Public markets, farm stands and farmer-processed products are other ways that farmers can increase their profit and provide quality, affordable foods.

Supporting family farmers supports local economies. Farmers' markets energize business districts and add vibrancy to local culture. When families buy locally, their money stays in the community, supporting local farmers and suppliers.

Low-income families often do not have the means to access food at local farmers markets because of a technology gap for accepting Food Stamp cards. The successful Senior and WIC Farmers' Market Voucher Programs could reach more eligible households with additional funding.

Schools also present an important opportunity to reduce hunger and food insecurity, as well as reduce obesity and improve overall nutrition for children. In addition to making nutritious food available



to low-income children, schools can offer nutrition education and serve as a market for local farmers. The best approach to nutrition education begins early in childhood and teaches through experience.

This link between local farms and schools has two benefits:

- Children start the habit of eating more fresh, locally produced food early in life.
- Farmers develop new markets with higher returns for their goods.

Grassroots efforts to make connections between school food service and local farms are sprouting up across the nation, yet they are finding numerous policy barriers. They also need seed funding to get such programs underway.

***Recommended Actions:***

19. Support Farmers' Markets and small farmers in their efforts to accept food stamps through the addition of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) technology to their markets.
20. Support the continued development and growth of the Oregon Farmers Market Association and Community Supported Agriculture.
21. Increase funding for the WIC Farmers' Market Voucher Program and the Senior Farmers' Market Voucher Programs.
22. Issue a state policy formally authorizing and encouraging schools and other public institutions to give preference to regionally produced, high quality food.
23. Identify and secure funding to cover initial outlays for equipment required to transition to regionally produced food purchasing, such as salad bars, walk-in coolers and culinary equipment.
24. Advocate federally for expansion of the federal Small Farms/School Meals Initiative and bring the USDA Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program to Oregon to help reduce children's reliance on unhealthy food.

## Federal Food Programs

Federally funded food programs are an intermediate response, not a long-term solution to the problem of hunger in our state. Fundamentally, people are hungry because they do not have enough income to pay for all their basic needs, including nutritious food. Until incomes increase, programs such as food stamps provide vital, ongoing support for thousands of low-income families.

Even though food programs only treat the symptom of a deeper problem, making food accessible to Oregon's hungry families and individuals is both the right thing to do and an important investment in Oregon. Federal food programs help children and adults in our communities avoid the long-term consequences of hunger.

There are significant benefits to expanding participation in federal food programs in Oregon.

- An initial investment in outreach pays long-term financial dividends. A modest local investment of energy and resources can leverage many hundreds of thousands of federal tax dollars over a few years time. During 2003, the Food Stamp Program alone brought in \$34 million per month on average to the state – close to \$400 million for the year. (Oregon Department of Human Services) These dollars are spent at both large and small grocery stores throughout Oregon.
- The federal child nutrition programs and work support programs like food stamps increase the stability of Oregon's working poor families by providing additional resources to help maximize low-income budgets.
- These programs prevent serious undernutrition problems for families who do not have the resources to feed three nutritious meals a day to their children.

### **Goal: Increase participation in underutilized federal food programs**

In addition to providing a valuable source of food for many Oregon families, federal food programs benefit the local economy by returning tax dollars to our communities. However, these dollars are dependent on maximizing the use of federal programs. Local investments can leverage many hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal money over a few years' time. Federal food programs targeted at children can greatly contribute to children's nutrition and health. Additionally, one year's support for outreach becomes a

#### **Real Life Examples**

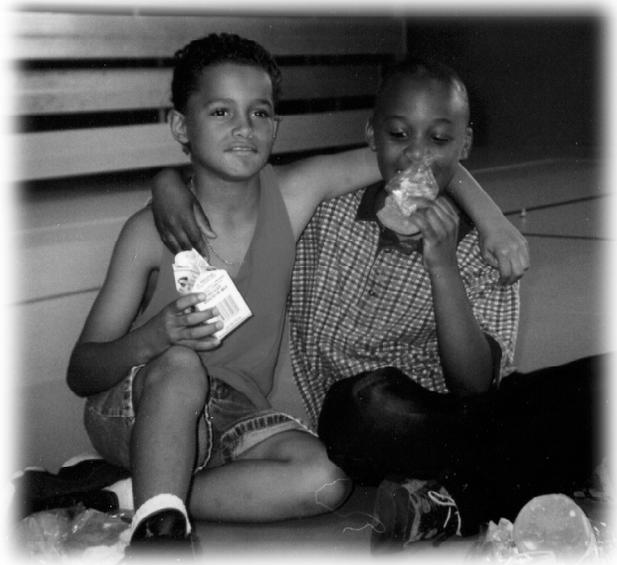
In 1990, the OHRTF recommended, and the Oregon Legislature passed, a School Breakfast mandate. This mandate requires all public schools in Oregon to offer the federally supported school breakfast program if 25% or more of the student body is eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. This has made Oregon one of the top performing states in reaching students with free and reduced-price breakfasts.

multi-year investment in the nutrition and development of these children. Once children use these programs, they tend to continue in following years.

Although these resources do exist and can help alleviate the effects of hunger, Oregonians are not accessing them to the fullest extent possible.

***Recommended Actions:***

25. Fund outreach, education, and technical assistance in Oregon communities where there is low participation in federal food programs, especially the Food Stamp Program, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and the After School Snack and Meal Program.
26. Establish sites for congregate and home-delivered meals for elders and people with disabilities in communities lacking them.
27. Apply to USDA for increased access to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) that provides food commodities to seniors, children, and pregnant women.



**Goal: Reduce barriers to participation in federal food programs.**

Many people do not know that these programs exist or that they might be eligible for assistance. Even those families who do know about the programs may find that a variety of barriers keep them from accessing these valuable resources.

With increased training, support, and additional funding, the state of Oregon could simplify management processes and improve public access to federal food programs.

***Recommended Actions:***

28. Increase the capacity of the Department of Human Services offices to handle new food stamp caseloads in a timely manner while still maintaining a variety of access options for clients.
29. Fund start-up costs and provide supplemental meal reimbursement to boost participation in the Summer Food Service Program and the After School Snack and Meal Program.
30. Provide adequate state funds for the WIC Program to enable the program to serve all eligible women, infants and children.

**Goal: Improve and invest in programs at the federal level.**

In order for federal food programs to truly meet local needs, Oregonians need to advocate for national improvements in the programs. Changes in eligibility, reducing the complexity of regulations, and increasing the levels of support are all critical so that more children have access to these programs.

*Recommended Actions:*

31. Provide for categorical eligibility across programs including child nutrition programs (Summer Food Service Program, After School Snack and Meal Program, National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program), WIC, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Energy Assistance, etc.
32. Create a streamlined seamless program to serve children year-round in the child nutrition programs.
33. Increase participation in the Summer Food Service Program by lowering area eligibility rates from school areas where 50% or more of the children are eligible for free and reduced price meals to 40%, and expand the Lugar pilot nationwide to simplify program operations.
34. Raise the \$10 minimum Food Stamp benefit to \$25 and index for inflation.
35. Reinstate food stamp eligibility fully for legal immigrants.

## Emergency Food Services

Emergency food services were designed to provide short-term support for specific, immediate emergencies. Instead, in Oregon, emergency food services fill an ongoing, constant need for many families.

Families seek emergency food sources when they have no money to purchase food and meet other basic needs. Rather than serving as an occasional stop-gap resource, emergency food boxes have become one of the only ways that many low-income families can make it through each month. Food stamps typically do not meet a family's food needs for an entire month.

The main component of emergency food services is Oregon Food Bank's statewide network. The network recovers grocery products that would otherwise be wasted and receives food donations. Food pantries, soup kitchens and other helping agencies provide both emergency meals and food boxes. A typical emergency food box contains a 3-5 day supply of groceries, usually including USDA commodities and donated food.

The emergency food system is feeling the strain of trying to serve more people for a longer period of time. It is not a long-term solution to hunger. Changes must occur to increase family income and eliminate other factors that cause families to need emergency food assistance on a regular basis.

### **Goal: Increase the capacity of Oregon Food Bank's Statewide Network.**

Oregon Food Bank (OFB) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to fighting hunger. OFB provides food to 18 independent regional food banks. OFB also operates two local food distribution centers serving Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, and Clark (WA) counties. Food collected and distributed by OFB reaches 800 independent agencies and programs (food pantries and supplemental programs) located across 36 Oregon counties and in Clark County, WA.

In addition to food distribution, OFB operates educational and advocacy programs designed to empower low-income people, promote community food security, increase public awareness regarding hunger and poverty issues, and alleviate the root causes of hunger.

### ***Recommended Actions:***

*Until the number of hungry Oregonians begins a significant decline:*

36. Maintain a contribution from the state General Fund each biennium to the Oregon Food Bank statewide network.

37. Increase private efforts to build community capacity of regional food banks and local agencies to generate more food and funds for their local communities.
  - Volunteer for board service at regional food banks and local member agencies to help build local support and capacity.
  - Provide fundraising assistance (direct mail campaigns, events).
  - Assist in filling structural (warehouse) and infrastructure needs (freezers, coolers, forklifts, pallet jacks).
  - Help expand the volunteer base for regional food banks and their member agencies.
  - Help develop programs and partnerships to assist people receiving emergency food boxes – nutrition classes, budgeting/survival skills, English as a Second Language classes, gardening, community kitchens, micro-enterprise opportunities, etc.
  - Help develop transportation solutions/delivery options to get food to homebound people and to people living in remote areas (mobile food pantries, van services, etc.).
38. Increase the nutritional quality of donated foods.

*Over the long term:*

39. Encourage food distribution sites to offer other services such as literacy and life-skills training.
40. Expand the 211 information system statewide to provide local residents with one number to call for all of their social service needs, including emergency food assistance.

## CONCLUSION

The responsibility for a solution to hunger doesn't rest solely with people who are hungry or food insecure or with those working in low wage jobs. It's not up to those who are aged and disabled. And it's not up to Oregon's children who make up the biggest share of hungry people in our state.

**All of us are responsible for ending hunger. All of us are needed to solve this problem.**

That will mean things have to change, not only for those who are hungry but also for those who aren't. We will need to do things differently in Oregon so that some don't have to bear the unfair burden of hunger.

**You** will find yourself on the list of "implementers" in this plan. That's no accident. **You** are needed to end hunger in Oregon.



If there is one significant lesson to take home, it is this –

Oregonians are hungry because they don't have enough money to buy food and pay for other essential needs. The answer is to give Oregonians the opportunity to make an adequate income with dignity, not receive continuous charity.

We must raise our standards in Oregon – from charity to dignity. We must support emergency food services and programs while they are needed. And we must work to ensure that families don't live in a constant state of food emergency.

The solution to hunger is not a well-kept secret. It's up to all of us now to carry out these recommendations and end hunger once and for all in our state.

## APPENDIX: GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND PROGRAMS

**211:** 2-1-1 is the three digit number set aside by the FCC for the sole purpose of providing easy access to health and human service information and referral. Oregon 211 service is anticipated to be available in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties by July 2004, with statewide service not expected until 2007. Oregon SafeNet (1-800-SAFENET) is available throughout Oregon for health information and referral services.

**After School Snack and Meal Program:** US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) program that reimburses schools and non-profit sponsors for after school snacks and meals served to children through age 18 in qualifying areas (where 50% or more of the children are eligible for free or reduced price school meals). The food is provided to the children at no charge.

**Child and Adult Care Food Program:** USDA program that reimburses day care and after-school program operators for meals provided to eligible children and functionally impaired adults in day care. Sponsors also receive USDA commodity food and nutrition education materials.

**Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):** USDA program that distributes commodity food to supplement the diets of elderly people age 60 and over, and low-income women and children who do not receive Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program benefits.

**Community Supported Agriculture:** Refers to a partnership between individuals or families (“shareholders”) and local farmers. Most operate on a subscription basis under which shareholders typically pay either a lump sum at the beginning of the growing season or a monthly installment. In return they receive a share of fresh produce at regular intervals throughout the growing season.

**Congregate meal and home delivered programs:** US Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration on Aging program providing meals either served in group settings or delivered to homes, for elderly or home-bound individuals. Meals are usually provided free, at low cost, or through a barter system.

**Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT):** Provides benefits such as food stamps and TANF through a system similar to bank debit cards. Oregon’s EBT system issues benefits on the “Oregon Trail Card,” which works like any other debit card in grocery stores except that food stamp benefits can only be used to pay for food items. Families who get cash welfare benefits may also access them using the card.

**Employment Related Day Care Program:** State-run program that provides assistance with child care costs for qualifying families. Participants are responsible for making co-payments based on their income.

**Energy Assistance:** Refers to a number of programs providing assistance to low-income households in Oregon, including financial help with bills as well as structural changes to homes to lower energy costs.

**Food Stamp Program:** USDA nutritional support program that provides supplemental dollars to low-income households to buy food through an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system, using the “Oregon Trail Card.”

**Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program:** Federal program started in 2002-2003 in four states and on one Indian reservation to provide fresh and dried fruits and vegetables to students during non-meal times.

**General Assistance program:** A state program that provides cash to people with physical disabilities and/or mental disabilities.

**National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs:** USDA program that reimburses public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions that provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free meals to children each school day.

**Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit:** Tax credit available to working individuals with low wages. Amount returned varies depending on the number of household members and the household's tax liability.

**Oregon Health Plan:** Refers to state-run programs that provide health insurance coverage for low-wage Oregonians.

**Oregon Housing Trust Fund:** A state program used to fund new development of low-income housing and guarantee low-income housing mortgage loans.

**Parents as Scholars Program:** A pilot program created by the 2003 Legislature and modeled after the successful Maine program but is currently not funded in Oregon. Allows 1 percent of Oregon's welfare recipients to pursue post-secondary education as an allowable work activity under the TANF program.

**Payday loans:** Small, short-term loans secured with a personal check that is held for future deposit. Interest rates can reach as high as 500% in Oregon, one of only 8 states without a cap on interest charged. Payday loans are outlawed in 19 states. 41 states have caps on small loans set under 60%. The average cap is 36%.

**Senior Farmers' Market Voucher Program:** USDA program that provides coupons to low-income seniors to obtain fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets and roadside stands, improving the nutrition available to seniors and strengthening local food producers.

**Small Farms/School Meals Initiative:** USDA program that supports and encourages small farms in selling their produce to schools, and to support schools in purchasing this produce.

**Summer Food Service Program (SFSP):** USDA program that provides reimbursement to schools, non-profits, camps, and government agencies for meals and snacks served to children in low income areas during the summer.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** HHS program that provides cash assistance to low-income families with children while they strive to become self-sufficient. In Oregon, this program is administered through the Department of Human Services.

**Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC):** USDA program that provides low-income women and children under the age of five, who have a documented medical or nutritional risk, with proper nutrition through food vouchers, nutrition education and access to health services.

**WIC Farmers' Market Voucher Program:** USDA program that provides coupons to families to purchase fresh produce, as well as offering tips on shopping effectively at local Farmers' Markets.

## APPENDIX: FULL LIST OF IMPLEMENTERS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- **Agricultural Sector** (3, 6, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 37, 38)  
*Farmers and ranchers, agricultural associations, farmers' markets, processors*
- **Business, Industry and Financial Institutions** – (2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 23, 25, 37, 38, 40)  
*Business and industry associations, individual businesses, business leaders, food-related business, such as grocers, processors, and distributors, banks, lenders and credit unions, landlords*
- **Education** – (2, 3, 6, 22, 24, 25)  
*K-12 public schools and districts, colleges and universities, workforce and training programs, libraries, individual teachers and school administrators, OSU Extension Service, parents*
- **Faith-Based Organizations and Communities** – (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 25, 26, 28, 30, 36, 37)  
*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, congregations, religious leaders, Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger (OFRAH), direct service agencies including Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, Lutheran Community Services, Jewish Federation*
- **Federal Government** – (2, 7, 14, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40)  
*U.S. Congress, members of Oregon's delegation to Congress, Office of the President, U.S. Dept of Agriculture, other federal agencies*
- **Foundations** – (2, 5, 6, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 29, 37)
- **Individual Oregonians** – (1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 20, 25, 29, 37, 39)  
*Those who are hungry or at risk of hunger, concerned individuals, neighborhood and community leaders, leaders of underrepresented groups*
- **Local and Regional Governments** – (2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 25, 26, 29, 40)  
*County leaders and agencies, city leaders and agencies, Metro regional government, individual community leaders*
- **Media** – (Educate the public on all; help with 25)
- **Non-Profit Organizations** – (all)  
*Anti-poverty services organizations, Community Action agencies, Oregon Food Bank and the statewide network of Regional Food Banks, local food pantries, information and referral agencies, Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force*
- **State Government** – (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 36, 40)  
*Office of the Governor, Oregon State Legislature, state agencies, Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger*

## APPENDIX: HUNGER-RELATED DATA

### Family Economic Stability

- The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is no longer a realistic indicator of poverty. Based on out-of-date assumptions about the costs of living, it fails to address the impact of the increasing costs for housing, health care and child care. As a result, the official poverty rate as defined by the federal government underestimates those who are actually poor. “Basic family budgets,” individualized for communities nationwide and for type of family, offer a more realistic measure of the income required to have a safe and decent, though basic, standard of living.<sup>1</sup>
- 36% of working families in Oregon with 1-3 children under age 12 do not earn enough to pay for all items in the “basic family budget.”<sup>2</sup>
- In 2000, Oregon workers with less than a high school degree had a median income of \$18,953, high school graduates earned \$27,666, and workers with a bachelor’s degree or more had a median income of \$53,457.<sup>3</sup>
- A student would have to work 55 hours per week year-round at minimum wage to pay average college costs.<sup>4</sup> Oregon’s lowest income students – the bottom 20% - paid the equivalent of 69% of annual family income to attend college *after* receiving financial aid.<sup>5</sup>
- The median price of a home in Oregon increased by 128% between 1990 and 2000, with prices climbing from a median of \$66,600 to \$152,100.<sup>6</sup>
- 40% of Oregon’s families who rent their homes are paying rents that consume more than 30% of their income (HUD’s standard for affordability).<sup>7</sup>
- There are 28,500 families on Oregon’s housing authority waiting lists and they may wait for federally subsidized housing for two to three years.<sup>8</sup>
- A study of food bank users found 47% of respondents spent over half of their monthly income on housing. 22% spent over three-fourths of their income on housing.<sup>9</sup>
- Of those seeking emergency food in April 2002, 28% were forced to move within the previous two years because of the cost of housing and 15% because they were evicted.<sup>10</sup>
- Every \$1 million Oregon cuts from Medicaid results in a loss of 35 jobs, \$3.4 million in business activity and \$1.3 million in revenue-generating employee wages.<sup>11</sup>
- One in eleven Oregon children does not have health care coverage.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of uninsured Oregonians between the ages of 18 and 64 rose 20% between 1996 and 2000, from 273,600 to 327,000 Oregonians.<sup>13</sup>
- Low income families (below \$22,548) spend an average of 24% of household income on childcare, while high income families (over \$45,000) spend an average of 5.9%. The average Oregon family spends \$311 per month on childcare.<sup>14</sup>
- Families accessing emergency food boxes who responded to a survey in 2002 responded that
  - Lack of child care prevented them from working (18%)
  - Child care is too costly (39%)
  - The co-pay for Employment Related Day Care is too high (14%)<sup>15</sup>
- Families with one or two children pay income taxes even if their incomes are below 90% of the federal poverty level.<sup>16</sup>

- Oregon's Earned Income Credit (EIC) is not refundable. If it were made refundable, Oregon could potentially eliminate the state income tax for families in poverty and provide them with additional money to make ends meet and avoid hunger.<sup>17</sup>

### **Community Food Security**

- A food item travels an average of 1,500-2,500 miles from where it's produced to where it's consumed.<sup>18</sup>
- Oregon loses 11,860 acres of farmland every year to development.<sup>19</sup> The Willamette Valley is rated the 5<sup>th</sup> most endangered farmland in the US because of the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses.<sup>20</sup>
- Food shopping constitutes the second most significant transportation need, outside of commuting to work. Transportation policy often fails to address food access in urban neighborhoods and rural communities.<sup>21</sup>
- Lack of access to healthy foods and the low-cost of high-sugar, high-fat foods are among the many contributing factors to obesity in low-income areas – causing food insecurity and obesity to co-exist.<sup>22</sup>
- The farm share of each food retail dollar in Oregon is decreasing – from 37 cents in 1980 to 21 cents in 1996.<sup>23</sup>
- Federal government subsidies to farmers have increased under the 2002 Farm Bill. However, only 16% of subsidies go to the smallest 80% of farmers. Growers of fruits, vegetables and nuts (much of Oregon's crops) receive no subsidies.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2002, 52 Oregon communities state enjoyed the benefits of a farmers' market. Estimates indicate that more than 1,000 Oregon farmers participate in farmers' markets each year and that farmers' markets attract more than 90,000 people each week during the peak summer months.<sup>25</sup>

### **Federal Food Programs**

- Food Stamp Program utilization is up 70% since 2000 and yet there are at least 400,000 more individuals eligible but not using the program.<sup>26</sup>
- Many children who are eligible for federal food programs do not have access to the nutrition they need because the programs are not offered in their communities.<sup>27</sup>
- According to the state WIC office, WIC serves an estimated 71% of eligible women in Oregon, and 85% of eligible children. In 2003, the WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program in Oregon reached only about one-third of all WIC participants. Oregon loses additional federal funds every year because the state does not authorize sufficient matching funds.
- Organizations face cost barriers to offering the Summer Food Programs in local communities, especially in rural areas.<sup>28</sup>
- For many who receive food stamps, the amount is not adequate to provide enough quality food for the entire month. These households may visit food bank pantries near the end of the month for an emergency food box.<sup>29</sup>

### **Emergency Food Services**

- 42% of food box recipient households in 2002 had at least one person working.<sup>30</sup>
- The Oregon Food Bank network's 338 food pantries distributed emergency food to 10% more people in FY2002-03 than in the previous year.<sup>31</sup>
- In FY2002-03, 148 soup kitchens and shelters provided 4.4 million emergency meals. 346 community

agencies offered meals to more than 120,000 people at senior centers, day care centers and other programs serving low-income people.<sup>32</sup>

- 40% of those eating meals from emergency food boxes are children.<sup>33</sup>
- The Oregon Food Bank network received contributions of 59 million pounds of food in FY2002-03 – 4 million pounds more than the previous year.<sup>34</sup> In rural areas, there are fewer food pantries. Even when food pantries are available, the hours and days they are open are often limited.<sup>35</sup>
- Oregonians support the Oregon Food Bank statewide network as volunteers. 1,478,000 hours were donated in FY2002-03.<sup>36</sup>
- Only 3.5% of Oregon Food Bank's expenses goes to fundraising and administrative costs (revenue includes the value of donated food and other goods and services).<sup>37</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Economic Policy Institute, Basic Family Budget Calculator. <<http://www.epinet.org/datazone/fambud/budget.html>>.

<sup>2</sup> Economic Policy Institute, Basic Family Budget Calculator. <<http://www.epinet.org/datazone/fambud/budget.html>>.

<sup>3</sup> "The Case for Education for TANF Recipients in Oregon." University of Oregon, Center for the Study of Women in Society, February 2003.

<sup>4</sup> "Price of pluck nearly unaffordable." *Oregonian*. December 24, 2003: C6.

<sup>5</sup> "Measuring Up 2002: The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education." National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. <http://measuringup.highereducation.org/2002/reporhome.htm>

<sup>6</sup> 1990 and 2000 US Census. <<http://www.census.gov>>.

<sup>7</sup> 2000 US Census. <<http://www.census.gov>>.

<sup>8</sup> Association of Oregon Housing Authorities. <[www.oraoha.org/programs.htm](http://www.oraoha.org/programs.htm)>.

<sup>9</sup> "Profiles of Poverty and Hunger in Oregon." Oregon Food Bank, Hunger Factors Assessment, 2002. <[http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research\\_and\\_action/pdfs/profiles\\_of\\_hunger.pdf](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research_and_action/pdfs/profiles_of_hunger.pdf)>.

<sup>10</sup> "Profiles of Poverty and Hunger in Oregon." Oregon Food Bank, Hunger Factors Assessment, 2002. <[http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research\\_and\\_action/pdfs/profiles\\_of\\_hunger.pdf](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research_and_action/pdfs/profiles_of_hunger.pdf)>.

<sup>11</sup> "Medicaid: Good Medicine for State Economies." Families USA, 2003. <http://www.familiesusa.org/site/DocServer/GoodMedicineReport.pdf?docID=275> and Medicaid Calculator, Families USA, <http://www.familiesusa.org>

<sup>12</sup> "Status of Oregon's Children County Databook 2003." Children First for Oregon, 2003: 11. <http://www.childrenfirstfororegon.org>

<sup>13</sup> Uninsured rate from Oregon Population Survey multiplied by Department of Administrative state population estimates.

<sup>14</sup> "Child Care Policy Research Biennial Report: Data for Community Planning, 2000 Oregon Population Estimates and Survey Findings." Oregon Childhood Care and Education Data Project, Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, September 2002: 4-5.

<sup>15</sup> "Profiles of Poverty and Hunger in Oregon." Oregon Food Bank, Hunger Factors Assessment, 2002. <[http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research\\_and\\_action/pdfs/profiles\\_of\\_hunger.pdf](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research_and_action/pdfs/profiles_of_hunger.pdf)>.

<sup>16</sup> "State Income Tax Burdens on Low-Income Families in 2002." Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, April 2003.

<sup>17</sup> Lewis, John. "Making Ends Meet: Improving Oregon's Earned Income Credit." Oregon Center for Public Policy, February 2003. <<http://www.ocpp.org/2003/rpt030225.pdf>>.

<sup>18</sup> "Growing a Regional Food Economy". Ecotrust. <<http://www.ecotrust.org/foodfarms/>>.

<sup>19</sup> "Natural Resource Inventory." Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, 2001.

<sup>20</sup> Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Land Trust. <<http://www.osalt.org/>>.

<sup>21</sup> Fisher, Andy; Bob Gottlieb; Thomas Forster; and Mark Winne. "Healthy Farms, Food and Communities Act." Community Food Security Coalition, 2001. <[www.foodsecurity.org/cfsc\\_report.pdf](http://www.foodsecurity.org/cfsc_report.pdf)>.

<sup>22</sup> "Paradox of Hunger and Obesity in America." Food Research and Action Center and the Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis University, 2003. <<http://www.frac.org/pdf/hungerandobesity.pdf>>.

<sup>23</sup> "Growing a Regional Food Economy." Ecotrust. <<http://www.ecotrust.org/foodfarms/>>

<sup>24</sup> "Growing a Regional Food Economy." Ecotrust. <<http://www.ecotrust.org/foodfarms/>>

<sup>25</sup> Oregon Farmers' Markets Association. <<http://www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org>> and "Growing a Regional Food Economy." Ecotrust. <<http://www.ecotrust.org/foodfarms/>>.

<sup>26</sup> Oregon Department of Human Services, Children, Adults and Families.

<sup>27</sup> "Status of Oregon's Children County Databook 2003." Children First for Oregon, 2003: 11. <<http://www.childrenfirstfororegon.org>>

<sup>28</sup> Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force reports.

<sup>29</sup> Oregon Food Bank. <<http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>>

<sup>30</sup> "Profiles of Poverty and Hunger in Oregon." Oregon Food Bank, Hunger Factors Assessment, 2002. <[http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research\\_and\\_action/pdfs/profiles\\_of\\_hunger.pdf](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research_and_action/pdfs/profiles_of_hunger.pdf)>.

<sup>31</sup> "The State of Hunger: July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003." Oregon Food Bank. <<http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>>.

<sup>32</sup> "The State of Hunger: July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003." Oregon Food Bank. <<http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>>.

<sup>33</sup> "Profiles of Poverty and Hunger in Oregon." Oregon Food Bank, Hunger Factors Assessment, 2002. <[http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research\\_and\\_action/pdfs/profiles\\_of\\_hunger.pdf](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research_and_action/pdfs/profiles_of_hunger.pdf)>.

<sup>34</sup> "The State of Hunger: July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003." Oregon Food Bank. <<http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>>.

<sup>35</sup> "Profiles of Poverty and Hunger in Oregon." Oregon Food Bank, Hunger Factors Assessment, 2002. <[http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research\\_and\\_action/pdfs/profiles\\_of\\_hunger.pdf](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research_and_action/pdfs/profiles_of_hunger.pdf)>.

<sup>36</sup> "The State of Hunger: July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003." Oregon Food Bank. <<http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>>.

<sup>37</sup> Oregon Food Bank. <[www.oregonfoodbank.org](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org)>.

## APPENDIX: RESOURCES AND LINKS

### General

- Office of the Governor - To find out more about the Governor's fight against hunger, visit the Governor's web site at <http://governor.oregon.gov>
- Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force – <http://www.oregonhunger.org>
- Oregon Food Bank - <http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>
- Food Research and Action Center (FRAC): <http://www.frac.org/index.html>
- Western Region Anti-Hunger Consortium: <http://www.wrahc.org/>

### Hunger

- “The Paradox of Hunger and Obesity in America.” Center on Hunger and Poverty, Brandeis University, July 2003, <http://www.centeronhunger.org/pdf/hungerandobesity.pdf>
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- “Hunger and Food Insecurity in the Fifty States: 1998-2000.” Center on Hunger and Poverty, Brandeis University, August 2002, <http://www.centeronhunger.org/pdf/statedata98-00.pdf>
- Leachman, Michael. “Hunger in Oregon 2001.” Oregon Center for Public Policy, November 2002, <http://www.ocpp.org/2001/01hunger.htm>
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- “Consequences of Hunger and Food Insecurity for Children: Evidence from Recent Scientific Studies.” Center on Hunger and Poverty, Brandeis University, June 2002, <http://www.centeronhunger.org/pdf/consequencesofhunger.pdf>

### Family Economic Stability

- Beeferman, Larry. “The Asset Index: Assessing the Progress of States in Promoting Economic Security and Opportunity.” Heller School of Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, September 2002, <http://www.centeronhunger.org/pdf/ASSETINDEX.pdf>
- “Child Care and Education in Oregon.” Family Policy Program, Oregon State University, 2000, <http://www.hhs.oregonstate.edu/familypolicy/occrp>
- “Falling Behind: The Economic Security of Northwest Families Since 1990.” *Northwest Environment Watch* June 2003, [http://www.northwestwatch.org/press/econ\\_security.html](http://www.northwestwatch.org/press/econ_security.html)
- Association of Oregon Housing Authorities, <http://www.oraoha.org/programs.htm>
- Children First for Oregon, <http://www.cffo.org/>

- 100 Community Development Network (housing), <http://www.cdnportland.org>
- 100 Department of Housing and Human Services, <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/03poverty.htm>
- 100 Economic Policy Institute Basic Family Budget Calculator, <http://www.epinet.org/datazone/fambud/budget.html>
- 100 “Care Without Coverage: Too Little, Too Late.” Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, May 2002, <http://www.iom.edu/includes/dbfile.asp?id=4160>
- 100 “Insuring America’s Health: Principles and Recommendations.” Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, January 2004, <http://www.iom.edu/report.asp?id=17632>
- 100 Lynch, Robert. “Rethinking Growth Strategies: How State and Local Taxes and Services Affect Economic Development.” Economic Policy Institute, March 2004, [http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/books\\_rethinking\\_growth](http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/books_rethinking_growth)
- 100 “Northwest Job Gap Study: Searching for Work that Pays, Oregon.” Northwest Policy Center, Northwest Federation of Community Organizations, and Oregon Action. June 2001, [www.nwfc.org](http://www.nwfc.org)
- 100 Oregon Center for Public Policy, [www.ocpp.org](http://www.ocpp.org)
- 100 “The High Cost of Being Poor: Another Perspective on Helping Low-Income Families Get By and Get Ahead.” Annie E. Casey Foundation, June 2003, <http://www.aecf.org/publications/data/2003%20essay%20book.pdf>

### **Community Food Security**

- 100 Ecotrust’s Food and Farms Program, <http://www.ecotrust.org/foodfarms/>
- 100 Food Alliance, <http://www.thefoodalliance.org/>
- 100 Food Innovation Center, <http://fic.oregonstate.edu/>
- 100 Food Routes, <http://www.foodroutes.org/>
- 100 Oregon Farmers’ Markets Association, <http://www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org/index.htm>
- 100 Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Land Trust, <http://www.osalt.org/>
- 100 Portland-Multnomah Food Policy Council, <http://www.sustainableportland.org/default.asp?sec=stp&pg=BEST>

### **Federal Food Programs**

- 100 Bowman, S., E. Schuster, and B. Weber. “Poverty and Food Assistance in Oregon.” Oregon State University Extension Service, 2003. Reports by county, <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/html/em/em8842-E/em8842-E.html>
- 100 Department of Human Services (DHS), State of Oregon food assistance, <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/assistance/>
- 100 Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), United States Dept. of Agriculture, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/>
- 100 Oregon Dept. of Education (ODE) Child Nutrition Programs, <http://www.ode.state.or.us/nutrition/>

### **Emergency Food Services**

- 100 Oregon Food Bank, <http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>
- 100 America’s Second Harvest, <http://www.secondharvest.org>

## Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force

**The mission of the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force (OHRTF) is to end hunger in Oregon.** The OHRTF works collaboratively with local communities, state agencies and public officials to ensure that all Oregonians have sufficient financial means and ready access to an adequate amount of nutritious, quality food.

**The Task Force includes strong representation from powerful and passionate partners.** The Task Force is comprised of members from the Oregon Legislature, state and local government agencies, nonprofit and religious organizations, the food industry and low-income communities.

**The Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force has been critical in securing millions of dollars in assistance for hungry Oregonians,** including additional funding for Oregon Food Bank, for WIC Farmer's Market Program, for a pilot Senior Farmers' Market Program, and for a pilot afternoon/evening meal program for teenagers. The Task Force has had phenomenal success in implementing a statewide Food Stamp Outreach Campaign that resulted in a 70% increase in food stamp participation in four years. In 2000, the US Department of Agriculture recognized the Task Force's food stamp outreach work with the **Pyramid Award**. Task Force-led outreach efforts have twice received the **Victory Against Hunger Award** from the Congressional Hunger Office, in 2001 and 2003.

## Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger

The Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger was created by the Legislative Assembly to implement recommendations from the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force (OHRTF). The ICCH is comprised of the administrative heads or their designees from the Departments of Housing and Community Services, Corrections, Economic and Community Development, Human Services, Education, Agriculture, and the State Commission on Children and Families.

The ICCH provides advice to the Governor on policies and issues relating to hunger in order to ensure the reduction/elimination of food insecurity in Oregon. In addition, the council assists in the efficient and effective development of food and nutrition programs, monitors federal programs, and works with public and private organizations engaged in food distribution.



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