

Implementers: The Power to Make a Difference



Act to End Hunger 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?”

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
(Actions 2, 4, 12, 15, 16, 25, 29, 36)



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**“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

Summary ~ Year One of a Strategic Plan

April 2004

Act to End Hunger

**40 ways in five years
to make a difference**

Hunger affects and diminishes the lives of everyone in the community. It is more than a social problem or a condition of poverty. It impacts virtually every aspect of our communities' well being.

Efforts to end hunger demand a focus on the circumstances causing hunger ~ not simply treatment of hunger's symptoms. This will require substantial changes in our social and economic infrastructure. To be free from hunger Oregonians must have enough income to pay for food and other essential needs.

Act to End Hunger 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 of 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.

Act to End Hunger is inspired by the community's 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 plan contains recommendations and immediate steps needed to ensure steady progress toward our goals. It is a blueprint for action and is designed to be a resource and foundation for our work together. This 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.

See the full 5-year plan for the complete list of 40 Actions and implementers at www.oregonhunger.org.
For a printed copy, call the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force at (503) 963-2680.



Family Economic Stability

For most, hunger is an income issue. Oregonians are at risk of hunger if they do not have enough income to meet basic needs like food, shelter, heat, medical care, childcare, and transportation. These costs have risen significantly over the last decade. Full-time work is not always enough to ensure that these needs can be met.

Goal: Develop Living Wage Opportunities for Oregonians

Our job market has shifted as higher paying manufacturing and government jobs have been replaced by lower paying retail and service sector jobs. At the same time, the rising cost of higher education and other workforce training has put the education necessary to get higher paying jobs out of reach for many Oregonians.

Action #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.

Goal: Strengthen family stability with programs that offset living expenses

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

Action #4

Create a tax credit for low-income families who are renting.

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

Oregon's current tax system does not provide reliable funding to pay for the public services that Oregonians need to avoid hunger. Low-wage workers pay a higher percentage of their income for state and local taxes and loans than do the highest income residents.

Action #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 due to age, illness, and serious disabilities.

Action #15

Reinstate the General Assistance program to provide adequate support for disabled, extremely low-income individuals.



Federal Food Programs

Federal food programs are an intermediate response to hunger, not a long-term solution. However, child nutrition programs and work support programs such as food stamps are vital to

the stability of thousands of working poor families in Oregon. They provide additional resources to maximize low-income budgets and offer a valuable source of nutrition. In addition to reducing hunger and preventing problems caused by serious under-nutrition, federal food programs return tax dollars to our communities. In 2003, the Food Stamp Program alone brought in an average of \$34 million statewide each month, almost \$400 million for the year. The food stamp benefits spent by low-income families help support grocers and their suppliers and stimulate local economies.

Goal: Increase participation in underutilized federal food programs

Action #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.

Goal: Reduce barriers to participation in federal food programs

Action #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.

Goal: Improve and invest in programs at the federal level

Action #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 school meals to 40%, and expand the Lugar pilot nationwide to simplify program operations.



Act to End Hunger



First Year Recommendations 2004-2005

While every one of the 40 Actions listed in the full report is critical, this Summary focuses on the 11 Actions identified as priority items for 2004-2005. The action numbers refer to their placement in the full 5-year plan.



Community Food Security

Community food security means that all people, at all times, have access to safe, nutritious, affordable, adequate and culturally appropriate food from non-emergency sources. It also means that food is produced, processed, and distributed in ways that honor and protect the environment and the workers who produce it. Community food security is a regionally based food system that combats hunger and improves nutrition by building a strong and resilient food system through partnerships across many disciplines.

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

A healthy food system reduces the need for medical and social services, benefits Oregon's economy, strengthens local agriculture, and supports the protection of our natural resources. State and local governments can play a key role in supporting healthy food systems.

Action #16

Establish a statewide Food Policy Council to assess statewide needs, propose solutions, and provide coordination among local food policy councils.

Goal: Support local farmers and improve the nutrition of Oregonians

Our food system has become more centralized, consolidated, and globally-oriented. This limits consumer access to fresh, affordable,



locally grown foods, puts local farmers in financial risk, and takes away consumer control over the quality and affordability of their food. Connecting local farmers to new local markets benefits the entire community.

Action #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.

Emergency Food Services

Emergency food services were designed to provide short-term support for families who temporarily have no money to purchase food and meet other basic needs. However, many families are now relying on emergency food boxes to make it through each month. The Oregon Food Bank network, consisting of 18 regional food banks and two food distribution centers and serving 800 individual agencies, is feeling the strain of serving more people for a longer period of time.

Goal: Increase the capacity of Oregon Food Banks statewide network

Actions #36 and #37

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