



#EmergeStronger

An Interim Report on Oregon Food Bank's COVID-19 Emergency Response - April 27, 2020

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#EmergeStronger: Oregon Food Bank's COVID-19 Emergency Response

Alongside our global community, Oregon is in the midst of a public health crisis. More than 860,000 people rely on our services each year — and in times of crisis, that number grows. As a pillar disaster response institution in our region, Oregon Food Bank (OFB) is leveraging its fullest strength to ensure that our food assistance system remains vital. We are unwaveringly dedicated to the health and safety of our community, including maintaining access to food for those most impacted: We will not allow hunger to become a symptom of COVID-19. *We can and we will emerge stronger.*

COVID-19 Escalates Food Insecurity

Throughout the OFB Network, we're seeing rising need in the wake of the health pandemic's economic impact as public institutions and businesses shutter. Families reel from lost wages, unpaid medical leave, and unplanned childcare and healthcare costs. The Federal Reserve estimates that 40% of Americans don't have \$400 or more on hand for an emergency expense. And Feeding America correlates a 1% increase in unemployment to a 10% increase in reliance on food assistance systems.

COVID-19 has laid bare the systemic inequities that leave too many of our neighbors vulnerable, particularly in immigrant and people of color communities. While food assistance does not, in and of itself, *advance* racial equity -- lack of food contributes to the disenfranchisement of communities. Your support helps us meet the hunger needs of our communities today. And by providing for basic needs, in partnership, we are opening space for longer-term systems change.

Our partners across the state are reporting a 20-60% spike in demand for hunger relief services over the past few weeks.



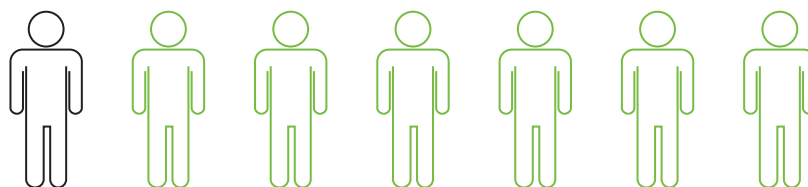
160,000 - 540,000 additional people accessing the food assistance system



74,000 of our neighbors do not qualify for state or federal benefits like unemployment and SNAP (food stamps) due to their immigration status.



Statewide, an estimated 7% of agencies have closed or suspended operations due to the pandemic. (~100 out of ~1400)



Since mid-March, 1 in 7 Oregon workers have lost their jobs. Oregon's workforce continues to bear the brunt of the state's coronavirus pandemic with total layoffs nearing 300,000 in the past four weeks alone. By comparison, Oregon suffered fewer than 150,000 job losses throughout the Great Recession.

#EmergeStronger: Strategic Priorities & Investments

Since March 14, OFB donors have risen to the #EmergeStronger Community Challenge and exceeded with private donations the \$1,000,000 challenge from John and Eileen Donahoe. Thousands of supporters are rallying to strengthen OFB's key, strategic priorities -- ensuring that our communities not only survive COVID-19 but that we #EmergeStronger on the other side. These gifts are propelling the food assistance system's capability to keep pace with growing need while we anticipate the arrival of federal aid in July, 2020.

Fueled by our community's generosity and moral leadership, Oregon Food Bank is deploying more than \$4,100,000 in public and private resources, including donations made by donors, like you. Total investments in each of our strategic priorities, and specific examples, showcase how we are actualizing our emergency response plan.

Flow of Food - \$2,365,000 deployed since March 14

OFB is designing and implementing innovative, safe food distribution models; increasing transportation; purchasing food from local farmers who are economically impacted by coronavirus; and, supporting partners to keep our neighbors fed throughout our region. We are moving healthy, nutritious food to families with children who typically rely on school meals; those who are newly unemployed; single moms balancing work and childcare; and, the 860,000 community members who have historically relied on the OFB Network and are now struggling even more.



**\$1MM for
~1MM lbs of Food**
to distribute throughout
our region.

**\$300K for immigrant
communities who do
not qualify for SNAP**
(food stamps).

**\$600K for
home-delivery of food**
to homebound, high-risk, and
elder communities.

Flow of Information - \$420,000 deployed since March 14

The OFB Food Finder is instrumental in ensuring our clients know where to access food and for rapid dissemination of COVID-19 updates. It is imperative that information about SNAP (food stamps) - the first and best line of defense against hunger - reach our community in a variety of languages.



**\$100K in
paid media**
to reach the newly
unemployed with
food assistance
system guidance.

**\$200K for a
multilingual
communications
campaign**
focused on SNAP benefits.

Flow of Support - \$1,115,000 deployed since March 14

Oregon Food Bank is grant-making to all 21 regional food banks (RFBs) throughout the OFB Network. We're also providing supplies (boxes, gloves, tents, and hand sanitizer) to support new, safe food distribution methods. This support is reaching our food assistance partners in every rural and urban community in our service area and it is put to immediate use for increased staffing, forklift rentals, supplies, and more.



\$1MM+
to the
OFB Network

\$100K
in supplies
for partner agencies.

Flow of Change - \$230,000 deployed since March 14

By influencing systemic solutions at state and federal levels, we are protecting and strengthening our social safety net in partnership with movement-building organizations that work directly with equity constituencies (including Black and Latinx, immigrant and refugee, indigenous, and LGBTQ+ communities). Together we have successfully secured an \$8,000,000 allocation from Oregon State to supplement food supplies, in response to increased need, for the OFB Network through June, 2020 - until federal aid arrives.



\$150K
for movement
building partners.

\$80K
for community
leadership
for advocacy.

The Work Ahead

With an \$8,000,000 allocation from the State of Oregon to purchase food (announced April 10, 2020) alongside the investments made by thousands of generous donors, like you - Oregon Food Bank is strongly positioned today. We have weathered the initial shock of this pandemic and fortified the food assistance system to endure in the weeks ahead. And we are not out of the woods.

We know the pandemic's economic impact will continue to ripple through our community. Need for essential resources will continue to grow and it will take all of us, working together, to continue addressing that need.

Oregon Food Bank remains adaptive to this rapidly changing environment. In partnership with our generous supporters, we will move extraordinary volumes of food into communities facing the threat of hunger and economic insecurity at profound rates. We are working alongside donors and decision-makers, and championing the leadership of those most impacted. We are ushering in systems-change and solutions that prevent hunger from becoming a symptom of COVID-19, and that end hunger for good. With your support, we remain stalwart in our vision of resilient communities that never go hungry.

Thank you for being among those we can turn to in times of crisis. Thank you for ensuring our communities #EmergeStronger from COVID-19. We will keep you updated as our emergency response efforts progress.



To access the contents of this report online, [click here](#).

There are many ways to strengthen the food assistance system across our region. If you are interested in supporting one of our closest partners in this work - a statewide or local organization in your area - that may be especially in need at this time, [click here](#).

Please know that we love you for your commitment to ending hunger.