

OREGON HUNGER TASK FORCE

Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon

[Oregon Hunger Task Force](#)

Meeting MINUTES

[May 26, 2026 10:00am-11:30am](#)

Time	Item
10:00 am	Meeting Recording Welcome and Introductions (<i>Jessica Morris, as representative of the OHTF Steering Committee</i>) Community Guidelines
10:03 am	OHTF Business (continued - quorum needed) • Passage of Meeting Minutes for: February + March + April • Introduction to the new OHTF AI Policy • OHTF member VOTE to pass Meeting Minutes + Adopt OHTF AI Policy Quorum achieved Minutes pass AI Policy pass
10:07 am	Presentation: New OHTF County Fact Sheets (<i>Corrinne Guinn, OSU Sociology and Psychology; Lily Sproles, OSU Sociology and Public Policy major; and Shelley Nelson, Instructor, OSU School of Public Policy; Lead Researcher, OSU Policy Analysis Lab (OPAL)</i>) Shelley Nelson: Good morning. I am going to get us started. Lily is going to be joining us. She's actually in class right now, but she's going to come straight from her class into this, and so she'll hopefully be here to pick up her portion at the end. So, we did this back in 2023, I believe using 2022 data. And we are very happy to finally be able to update those this year, with more current data. We've done a bit of a revamp that I think some of you may have already seen a draft of, but the fact sheets are expanded, so instead of a single... if you were to print it previously was just a single page front back. Since most people seem to be accessing it electronically, we expanded it to a multiple-page version that we're going to share with you today. I'm actually going to hand it over to Corinne, who's going to start us off by talking us through the first two pages. But essentially, our goal with this was to not only include statistics on food insecurity and hunger, but to also kind of contextualize that information by sharing more about other forms of material hardship and economic insecurity,

for people who are looking at the fact sheets to have a little bit more context, both at the state and county level. So, Corinne, I will let you get us started with our example fact sheet.

Corrinne Guin:

Awesome. Thank you so much, Shelly. Thank you so much for having us here today. We're really excited to share this with you and get some feedback too. Let me go ahead and share with you so you can see the fact sheet.

So like Shelly said, we wanted to add some context data alongside some aesthetic and design and organizational changes to really help tell a clear story about the status of food insecurity across all the Oregon counties.

So at the top here, we wanted to lead with our key statistic about people experiencing food insecurity. All of this data comes from Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2023 data, so that was published in 2025.

This was previously just shown cross-sectionally, but we wanted to make it longitudinal so people could see patterns and trends over time. We were hopeful that maybe the audience would look at the changes and consider what was happening locally and nationally to influence food insecurity rates.

Another new addition is that we wanted to include a food insecurity definition to help promote clarity as the audience goes through the document to understand the concept that it is that we're talking about. And this definition was adapted from the Oregon Hunger Task Force Roadmap to End Hunger 2025-2027. With our county population quick facts, those are some of that context data we were looking to include. So previous versions of the fact sheets included county and/or state level data, stats about food insecurity in specific populations, and by demographic characteristics.

So we wanted to show how these demographic characteristics are represented in the overall and county population, to provide that context to help communicate which populations are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity.

Starting at the top, this total county population data comes from the 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. The rural population percent comes from the Ford Family Foundation's Oregon by the Numbers 2025, and that's the same for the population by race, ethnicity, and we use the same categories that they used in their report.

Population by age comes from the 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, and then population civilian veterans percent people with disabilities, and population by household type all come from the 2024 American Community Survey one-year estimates.

And finally, just a little design element, we wanted to add a county footer to all of the pages to help orient the reader as they go through each page so they can remember which page it is or which county it is that we're discussing in each fact sheet.

So for the second page, again, this was data about food insecurity by program eligibility that was data that was previously cross-sectionally represented in previous versions of the fact sheet.

So we expanded that to be longitudinal. This comes from Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2023 data.

This food insecurity for adults 50 and older comes from Feeding America Map the Meal Gap as well. We wanted to highlight food insecurity and specific vulnerable populations, and Chris Baker and Shelly Nelson discussed how it might be more beneficial to actually separate those groups of older adults to examine how their experience of food insecurity is different. And as you can see, there is a big difference, so that was a really interesting stat to add here.

For food insecurity by community type, we are going to also be adding very low food security lines in here for rural and urban populations. So that will tie in directly to the key term next to it.

If you had seen the more recent draft we had done of this, we previously had hunger defined here, but we did switch it to very low food security to better explain the concept that was being measured. So this definition comes from the USDA Economic Research Services website, which was referenced in Mark Edwards 2022-2024 Food Insecurity in Oregon report, and this data came from Mark Edwards Oregon Food Insecurity 2023 report, and so we will add that very low food security data, which is forthcoming when it's available.

Shelley Nelson:

Okay, and I'm going to jump back in here to talk about the missing data page. Um, so we are going to be including information at the state level, as we have in the past, for food insecurity and very low food security by race, ethnicity, housing status, and household composition. Um, they are currently validating some of those numbers, and as soon as we have those, they'll be incorporated here. And this, again, comes from the reports that Mark does on food security statewide.

So, this is kind of a placeholder, if you will, and then on page 4 this is where we incorporated the county economic quick facts, and again, all of these numbers come from census data or Mapping the Meal Gap data.

We wanted to include something about wages, so both minimum wage and the living wage for the county, as well as things like labor force participation rate and households in financial hardship. Again, really trying to contextualize that food insecurity as material hardship that is part of a bigger story, um, of the types of hardships that folks are experiencing.

The number in the center is one that, um, we really felt like we wanted to highlight and call out. So this value, \$26.54 for Washington County, represents the additional dollars needed by a food insecure Washington County resident to meet their weekly food needs, and this is Mapping the Meal Gap data, so we have this for every county, and we also have a statewide estimate for this.

At the bottom of the page, we have a placeholder. We are currently awaiting the data from ODHS regarding, participation in SNAP. And again, once we have that, we'll update that. And this is kind of exactly what we had on the existing fact sheets. We're just missing the data as of yet.

Lily Sproles:

Hello! On this last page here, we have the section for county and state numbers related to school meals. We changed this from breakfast and lunch to just meals in general. And this includes both students participating in school meals and those eligible for free and reduced prices on meals. And this is from the Oregon Department of Education.

This page provides data for the percentage of eligible schools participating in community eligibility provision, or CEP, and the amount of schools that serve breakfast after the bell. And that's also from Oregon Department of Education. Underneath here, we have information about summer meals. This includes the county and state levels of average daily summer meals participation, as well as student enrollment.

And then we have the WIC data, or Women, Infants, and Children, providing the percentage of all pregnant people served by WIC on county and state levels.

And then at the bottom here, we just have a final statement explaining more about the Oregon Hunger Task Force. And there's a link to the other, fact sheets down there.

Shelley Nelson:

Great. And one other thing I wanted to note about these fact sheets, and Corinne had mentioned that they've been, obviously, kind of redesigned and revamped visually, but one of the things that we also made sure to do was to go through and make sure that all of the colors and the contrast meet all the accessibility standards.

So, the contrast between text and background and, you know, the numbers in the shaded graphics, like you see here with the graphics for women, infants, and children data, all of those have been tested to make sure that they meet those accessibility standards.

So at this point, we will take any questions that you might have. I know that was a really quick, quick overview, because these haven't been finalized, they are not actually hosted online yet, um, but we're hoping to do that in the next few weeks. And if there's a page anyone would like me to return to, to look at or ask questions about, please just let me know.

Chris Baker:

Thank you so much, all three of you, for the intense amount of time you've put into this project. These are so beautiful, and I'm so excited to see them expanded.

Jessica Morris:

I do see in the chat, Rachael Ward says in the places where data is coming from 2023, is it because there is no more recent information? It would be helpful to have the year's sources of data cited in the fact sheet where possible for those orgs that use these as data grant writing.

Shelley Nelson:

Yeah, so in the Map the Meal Gap data the most recent is 2023 data that they released in 2025, and at the bottom of the last page where it links to the existing fact sheets, we have a full methodology statement that we'll be updating that has information about the year for each and every statistic. But there might be space where we can also call some of that out in the fact sheet. Historically, what we've done is just list the year of the data based on data from ODE, from ODHS, which is typically the year prior, so for 2026, that's 2025 data, and then the

methodology statement outlines where we deviate from that. But yeah, we will make a note to try and find a way to clearly convey that.

Rick Gaupo:

Okay, first of all, I think this is cool. I think it's a good communicator. Maybe I missed this, is this report that's like the one you're looking at right now that says food 2023 is that the last data point there is or will it be able to get up to 2025 or what's the last data point?

Here's actually my specific concern is we know that 2024 and 2025, things have gotten a lot worse. There are a number of people... I mean, more people are coming literally every than ever before to food banking affordability has gotten harder. So I'm wondering if there's a way to capture that, or communicate that or do a dotted line that says, this is our current understanding for the next 2, you know for 2024, 2025, or anyways, I was wondering how to address any of that.

Shelley Nelson:

No, that's a great question. So for some of these, I think we could do what you suggest with a dotted line, kind of extrapolating and making it clear that that's kind of an estimate. So, in this particular data that we used for that very first graphic on the first page, the most recent they have is 2023, um, but they are using... I believe they are using census data to get those estimates, so I can look into trying to find out what the latest estimate is and incorporating that.

We will have 2025 data for SNAP participation, and the WIC and the ODE data is all 2025 as well. So I think that's a good point that getting those to match would be ideal.

Rick Gaupo:

And there's one data point that I've always been interested in to try and communicate which is average wages versus average pressures. Is that in there somewhere? Because when I talk to people, and specifically a linear graph, I really like that you have graph over time, because when I talk to people these days I want people to fully understand that wages are part of the problem. If people are not getting raises at the same rate that rent is going up, people, you know, and then we say, oh, why can't they somebody do something that's like, it's because we're literally not making enough money.

Shelley Nelson:

Yeah, we do. The closest thing we have on there is we have the percentage of households that are spending 35% or more of their household income on rent.

Rick Gaupo:

Yeah, I think that doesn't convey the message, like, this is what's happening to all of us, that your wages are not keeping up with your expenses and we need to help convey to people the pressure you personally are feeling is just being magnified hugely at low income wages. And so anyways, again, I love this. It's just a thought to consider what you would.

Shelley Nelson:

So you had mentioned specifically, though, like, you want wages maybe against, like, the cost of living index?

Rick Gaupo:

Sure, something that says it's not in our imagination that things are getting harder when we talk about why can't somebody do something anymore, it's like because your wages aren't keeping up to the economic pressures and studying the society picture as well as setting the picture of, like, this is what's happening so hard to low-income families.

Shelley Nelson:

True, yeah.

Jeff Gilbert:

So I meet frequently with county emergency managers in Western Oregon along with county commissioners, and I can't quite tell by looking at it from my phone. I apologize while I'm on the road, but does the report obviously you've broken it down by county. Is there a way to pull data or those sheets specifically for a county, so that counties typically don't care about other counties, but if I could give them a fact sheet on their county in a type of presentation to talk about fragility of food systems, is there a way to do that with your report?

Shelley Nelson:

Yeah, so the way that they're hosted on the website is you have state-level data, and then you have a link for each county's fact sheet. They're all separated out.

Jeff:

Perfect, thank you.

Mark Edwards:

I just wanted to respond to Rick's suggestion. A future version of these, perhaps, could also include maybe the one source of data we still have, which I think most clearly indicates very recent changes, which is pantry visits, or things like that. Whether it's, you know, total number of persons, or persons per week, or whatever, because I know, Rick, even some of the statistics you've presented in presentations have conveyed that more recent experience going on, because the federal and state data so often comes out so late that I've often said it, I feel like I'm looking at data coming from a, you know, a faraway star, and I'm not even sure, you know, I'm getting the data now, but it already happened. And so, it seems to me that we might want to, in the coming year, explore what might be an easy way to quickly aggregate some of that pantry data to include to give a sense of, you know, what are some people at least experiencing right in just the last few months.

Lauren Armony [in the chat]:

Hey Rick, that's an interesting point we're trying to address in housing security. AMI combine homeowner and renter incomes. We've tried to help visualize that by separating out the difference between those two housing statuses. Not sure if there is another vector to target? Cost of living, cost of housing, cost of childcare vs income...

Heather Miles [in the chat]:

Wages and the geographic wage-range in each county are important alongside the Cost of Living increases.

Andrea Williams [in the chat]:

Thank you Heather, good to know

Shelley Nelson:

So I also saw something in the chat from Lauren about the cost of housing, cost of childcare versus income, and so on. So, ultimately, our vision here is to create a dashboard, rather than just having the fact sheets county by county, which I think are very useful, um, having kind of an online dashboard. And the vision for that dashboard is to have call-outs for lots of different forms of material hardship, um, and what we might consider kind of deserts. So, food deserts, childcare deserts, housing deserts. So OPAL is working on a longer-term mapping project that will include, in my dream version at least, will include kind of tabs for these different issue areas as well as, kind of, the economic, kind of, contextual information. So while we may not be able to incorporate all of that in this current iteration of the fact sheets, that is kind of the dream and the vision for where we go with this in the future.

Andrea Williams:

Hi, thank you so much for this. And I apologize because I joined late, so you may have already addressed this, but for SNAP is there... I was just at a California conference where they were anticipating and tracking SNAP loss because of HR1 by county. Is it possible for us, or are you planning on including that in this county level data so that we can maybe track where we might see anticipated spikes in food assistance needs?

Shelley Nelson:

Yeah, that is something that's on our list. Currently, we just don't have the data from 2025 at all. So I can't say for sure what we'll be able to do with that, but I do hope to include that, assuming that we're able to do so.

Heather Miles:

This is Heather Miles for the SNAP program, so I just wanted to jump in a little bit on that side, especially with the concerns you're raising there. I think they're going to be two separate things for a while. So, when you're looking at the 2025 data, that's a historical period where a lot of the HR1 effects didn't actually happen yet, right? They may have gone into law at certain points, and some of them kind of did. But we're really feeling the full brunt of it actually happening in 2026. So, what we're working on right now, um, in tandem with this project, is trying to get that data released for all of you in a way that's more consistent from our department, so you can see that drop in the data that we're starting to see. I think it's what most of the folks on this call are likely to know - able-bodied adults without dependents, that stuff, work requirements, policy that changed in the HR1 bill. Some of those things expanded, the age range expanded for folks. It eliminates some of the exemptions the program used to have, and all of those contributing factors have started to really see that cascade effect of people either no longer qualifying for the program because they don't meet an exemption, or some other factor is occurring, and so we are logging those data points right now, and reconciling them. We are in the middle of moving through people earning what's called Accounting Month, which is when they don't participate in the program, so we're kind of reconciling all of that information, because, when somebody - I'm using really techy language, and I'm so sorry - when somebody earns a counting month, which is a month that they weren't able to meet the work requirements for SNAP, that can sometimes be reconciled the month after that counting month supposedly has been earned, and so we don't always have immediately month-to-month the data. You sometimes have to wait a couple of months after that to actually have reconciled information.

	And that's when you really know how many families were really impacted by a loss versus folks we were able to work with and find an exemption for. So I'm hoping that we're going to be getting something out there in the next month or two, so that we can all start really using that data holistically around what has been happening due to HR1. And didn't mean to butt into your presentation there, Shelly. Really appreciated it, but I think we're talking about two worlds kind of coming together in this. Shelley Nelson: No, I appreciate that context, because I know bits and pieces, right, of what's going on, but that's actually really helpful and helps us plan for what we might need to include. Jessica Morris: All right, thank you so much again for all the hard work to put all this information together for us. I know that is very useful for many of our organizations. And we look forward to revealing the final product. Shelley Nelson: I just want to call out Corinne and Lily again for their work on this, because what you see visually is 99.9% their doing. Um, I crunched a lot of numbers, but they're the ones that made this into what it is, so I want to make sure that we all give them due credit for that. Michelle Week [in the chat]: We are talking state and county but do tribal nations also get a sheet? Jessica Morris: There was one more question. Michelle: We are talking state and county, but do tribal nations also get a sheet? Shelley Nelson: In past iterations and the current iteration, they do not, but I think that is possible for us to do that. I can... I will certainly look into it, but I do not believe it's ever been done before. I will make a note of that. Thank you.
10:37 am	Highlights & Takeaways: Anti-Hunger Policy Conference, Washington DC <i>(Chris Baker, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon; Rachael Ward, Farmers Market Fund; and Amanda Orozco, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon)</i> Hello everyone, for those who do not know me, my name is Chris and I am on staff at Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, and I serve as the administrator for this Task Force. One of duties as the administrator is to hold the work of the task force, and help seek out solutions that the task force can research and analyze and potentially put into practice to reduce hunger in Oregon. And one of the best ways to connect with other food security advocates nationally is at an annual conference. So, each year the Food Research & Action Center, or FRAC, hosts an Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in Washington DC. It is a two-day conference followed by one day of lobbying on the hill.

The conference had many relevant and informative sessions to choose from this year, and I was glad that there was a good number of Oregon folks in attendance so that we could cover a large number of sessions and share back with one another.

We've got Rachael Ward from Farmers Market Fund, and Amanda Orozco from PHFO here to share some of their high level highlights from sessions they attended as well. I'll share out first and then pass to Rachael.

So, one conference session, and one infinity group stood out to me the most because they were both topics that are relevant to current OHTF work. Specifically, to key findings from the Food Assistance System Report we produced last spring. One of the findings was that Oregon's food "system" is decentralized - meaning that unlike transportation, housing, or emergency management, Oregon does not formally treat its food system as a coordinated statewide system that has sustained infrastructure investment.

The session I'd like to share with you was focused on two case studies of food systems strategic planning efforts that were focused on statewide and city-wide food systems coordination models in New Jersey and Philadelphia.

It's important to note that both New Jersey and Philadelphia approached food insecurity not as an emergency food problem, but as a systems coordination problem. Both recognized that communities don't lack ideas or programs; they lack sustained infrastructure, authority, coordination, and long-term investment.

In New Jersey, the state established a legislatively mandated Office of Food Security Advocate within the Governor's Office. It is currently the only office of its kind in the nation housed at that level. The office functions similarly in some ways to the OHTF, but with more formal authority inside state government. Their work focuses on statewide coordination, long-term systems planning, and building county-level food security coalitions supported through shared frameworks, data, and tools. One thing I found especially interesting was that their [statewide strategic plan](#) is intentionally flexible: agencies and organizations align their work within the framework rather than being forced into rigid compliance structures. So in other words, formalizing and supporting what is already working.

[Link to the Planning with Purpose conference presentation](#)

Philadelphia took a similar systems approach after the pandemic exposed major gaps in coordination there. The city created a cross-sector food security task force that included food access organizations, healthcare, agriculture, philanthropy, and community members. Their central finding was that Philadelphia does not lack food programs, it lacks coordination, authority, and sustained investment. They identified fragmentation and siloed systems as the primary barriers to progress.

One of their major recommendations was the creation of a permanent governance structure with actual authority and funding power, rather than temporary advisory groups. They also framed food access as civic infrastructure alongside housing, transportation, and public safety - rather than simply emergency charity.

Across both case studies, the biggest takeaway for me was this: Fragmentation is a major challenge facing food systems. Effective coordination requires not only collaboration, but actual infrastructure, long-term investment, and decision-making authority.

I also attended two affinity group meetings for Independent Food Banks. This affinity group was centered on food providers operating independently outside of the national food bank system, the Feeding America network. I was really intrigued when I saw it listed because one of the findings from the OHTF Food Assistance System Report was that Oregon's food ecosystem has real funding and infrastructure gaps, particularly for providers operating outside formal systems.

What I mean by that is: while Oregon has the Oregon Hunger Response Fund and a strong food bank network, there are also many providers across the state operating outside those structures, often because federal food funding comes with strict auditing, food safety, and administrative requirements that smaller or community-based organizations simply cannot absorb. That's not a criticism of the Oregon Food Bank at all. In fact, the OFB network does a tremendous amount to support providers both within and outside of its network. But because of the way federal and state systems are structured, no single system can realistically hold the full spectrum of food providers operating across Oregon.

What was really affirming to me in these conversations was learning that Oregon is not unique. Similar to what we found in the OHTF report, the pandemic and SNAP benefit disruptions exposed nationally that every state's food ecosystem is broader and more diverse than any one system alone can fully capture.

There was a lot of acknowledgment in the group that Feeding America networks (of which the Oregon Food Bank network is a part of) provide critical large-scale infrastructure, logistics, procurement, and emergency response capacity that communities rely on every day. At the same time, there are also deeply community-embedded organizations operating alongside those systems that are often able to respond more quickly, or just differently, to localized needs like culturally specific foods, local food sourcing, mobile distribution, and lower-barrier access models.

One of the things I appreciated most was that the conversation was very intentionally framed around collaboration rather than competition. Across the country, there are similar conversations happening about how to better recognize, coordinate with, and support the full range of food providers that exist outside formal statewide or Feeding America-affiliated systems. The emphasis was not "network versus non-network." It was really about how we create a more coordinated, equitable, and resilient food ecosystem overall.

Another major takeaway was that many independent providers lack access to infrastructure, procurement systems, technical assistance, and policy representation — not because networks are intentionally exclusionary, but because our federal and state systems were largely built around centralized distribution models.

Honestly, these conversations left me feeling encouraged. New Jersey and Philadelphia offered really strong examples of systems coordination and governance, and the affinity group conversations reinforced that Oregon is actually ahead of many states because we already have a coordinated statewide Hunger Task Force where these conversations can happen. We have a

space where we can look honestly at what's working, where the gaps are, and how we move forward collaboratively to build a stronger and more equitable food system together.

Okay, passing now to Rachael Ward from Farmers Market Fund so that she may share her key highlights and takeaways. Rachael will pass to Amanda Orozco from the PHFO team when she is done.

Rachael Ward:

Thanks, Chris, that was really great and really interesting to hear. I'm glad that we all split ourselves among many sessions so that we could all bring back those different takeaways.

There were three sessions that I went to that I wanted to speak to:

The first talked about how attitudes and biases among rural healthcare workers can affect connection of patients to federal nutrition programs and other food assistance resources.

Very interesting to the work that I do. Also having a public health degree, any kind of connection between public health and food is always very interesting to me.

This was led by a group of presenters from the University of Colorado that did a big survey of over 300 healthcare workers across 16 counties in Colorado. It was made up of healthcare practitioners, support workers, and folks in healthcare operations, mostly in primary care and hospital settings. They really looked at both the structural factors that lead to food insecurity, like job loss, high cost of food, or impacts of COVID, and then also what some people perceive to be the individual causes of food insecurity, or some of those stigma-based misperceptions that folks have around people budgeting poorly, not wanting to work, or losing jobs.

They asked healthcare workers to rate those different factors based on what they thought was the root cause of food insecurity, and then looked at how that would impact their ability or willingness to refer clients to food security services. They found that while healthcare workers often recognize the structural factors that lead to food insecurity, they also still often believe that food insecurity comes from personal failures. They also found that healthcare workers had very low familiarity with SNAP. Thirty-five percent of the folks that were surveyed were not familiar with SNAP at all. More were familiar with food bank programs or programs for children like WIC, summer meals, and school meals.

There were also some correlations around demographics. As the age of healthcare workers increased, there was a stronger attribution of food insecurity to individual causes. Female-identifying people attributed food insecurity more strongly to structural causes than individual causes. Those who had experienced food insecurity themselves spoke more to the judgment they had felt around the use of assistance programs.

It was very interesting to see, and I think it has a lot of long-term impacts and implications for folks who are working in food-as-medicine or VeggieRx-type programs. The attitudes and behaviors of the healthcare workers you're working with can really make or break your food-as-medicine program. They can make it easy to encourage folks to use those services or not. It also shows that there's a lot of work to be done to correct misperceptions around individual causes of food insecurity.

The second session that I went to was around supporting tribal food sovereignty and food access:

There were presenters from the [Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative](#). Both presenters were lawyers.

They talked a lot about a resource called the [Tribal Governance Guide to Food and Agriculture](#). It was created in late 2025 and is basically designed to provide a one-stop shop for tribal governments to navigate opportunities to invest in their tribal food systems. It gives tribal leadership and staff accessible tools, resources, strategic guidance, language, and code to help strengthen tribal food and agriculture systems.

Some of the key sections talk about how to establish a Department of Agriculture within a tribal government and why that can be useful when doing intergovernmental relationships and conversations. They discuss different nutrition programs that tribes can either start on their own or participate in conjunction with the federal government, and how to tailor those programs to better fit the needs of their communities. They talked about nation-to-nation communications and consultations and how to go about doing that.

They also shared examples of how different tribal communities around the United States have incorporated use of the toolkit. Examples included creating community gardens and using those spaces to provide education on food sovereignty and traditional growing methods, reducing dependence on processed foods, and connecting with plant and animal relatives.

They also talked about the Osage Nation, which started its own meat processing plant during COVID and how that became a broader resource for surrounding rural communities. It created jobs and served as a new place for farmers and ranchers to access meat processing.

There were a lot of great gems in that session, and it was really interesting to hear about how tribes can support that work.

The last session I attended was around protecting nutrition access for immigrant families under public charge.

For folks who aren't familiar, public charge is basically when someone could be denied admission to the country or become ineligible to become a legal resident because of certain circumstances, including receiving certain public benefits. There are a lot of misconceptions and stigma associated with that.

The presenters talked about how receiving public benefits does not automatically trigger a public charge determination, but the history of public charge has been used to discriminate against certain groups. It has been used to turn away Jews fleeing the Holocaust, target people with disabilities, single mothers, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. It has a long and troubling history.

Right now, we're seeing public charge used in very dangerous ways. There have been changes to public charge rules that have made them much more subjective and open to interpretation. This is creating fear in communities and a strong chilling effect around accessing food benefits and other public benefits because there is not a lot of assurance or security that information won't be shared or create problems in the future.

The presenters represented organizations from California, North Carolina, and Colorado.

One of the most interesting examples was Colorado's Promotores program, where trusted members of immigrant communities go out and educate people about public charge. They emphasized how important it is that the message comes from trusted members of the community who both understand the rules and understand the fears and concerns of the people they are speaking with.

I thought that was a really interesting model to keep an eye on and think about.

[Resources around Public Charge from Hunger Free Colorado](#)

Those three sessions were very important and interesting to me.

Beth Englander [in the chat]:

Here is our Oregon specific Public Charge Fact Sheet

<https://oregonlawcenter.org/public-charge-rule/>

Chris Baker [in the chat]:

We will be hosting a presentation during the June OHTF meeting from our friends at OHA on how the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) will provide fruit and vegetable benefits and pantry stocking benefits to eligible OHP members who have certain medical needs, have low food security, and are going through life situations that make it difficult to get enough healthy food! So, timely based off of the information from the first session Rachael shared about.

Amanda Orozco:

Hi all. My name is Amanda Orozco. I use she/they pronouns. I'm the Policy Manager here at Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon. I also attended the FRAC conference in DC and wanted to share some takeaways from the seminars I attended.

One focused on aging without hunger and senior citizens. Another focused on CACFP, and if I have time I'll also touch on addressing veteran hunger.

The first session was called *Aging Without Hunger: Closing the Nutrition Gap for Older Adults*. It focused on senior hunger, which is a population that often gets overlooked in food security conversations.

One of the biggest takeaways was that food insecurity among older adults is growing. The presenters discussed how older adults often face unique barriers to accessing food assistance, including transportation challenges, mobility limitations, fixed incomes, rising housing and medical costs, and social isolation.

The session highlighted that many older adults who are eligible for SNAP are not enrolled. Some don't know they qualify, while others face stigma around accessing benefits or find the application process difficult to navigate.

The presenters also discussed the health impacts of food insecurity among older adults, including increased risk of chronic disease, poorer health outcomes, and increased healthcare costs.

There was a strong emphasis on integrating nutrition assistance into healthcare systems and aging services. The presenters discussed how partnerships between healthcare providers, aging networks, and food assistance organizations can help identify and connect older adults with resources more effectively.

Another important point was that food insecurity among seniors often remains hidden. Many older adults will cut back on food before they cut back on medications, housing, or utilities, making it difficult to identify those who are struggling.

The session also discussed policy opportunities to improve access, including SNAP modernization efforts, expanding outreach, simplifying enrollment processes, and increasing collaboration between agencies serving older adults.

The second session I attended focused on CACFP, the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This session looked at strategies for expanding participation and improving access.

One of the key themes was that CACFP is a powerful but often underutilized program. It supports meals and snacks for children in childcare settings as well as meals for older adults and individuals in adult care settings. Presenters discussed barriers that providers face in participating, including administrative burden, staffing capacity, reimbursement rates, and navigating program requirements.

Several organizations shared successful strategies they have used to increase participation. These included providing technical assistance, reducing paperwork burdens where possible, offering peer-to-peer learning opportunities, and helping providers understand the benefits of participation.

There was also discussion about the role CACFP can play in supporting local food purchasing and improving nutrition quality for participants.

One thing that stood out to me was how important technical assistance and relationship-building are to successful program participation. Many providers want to participate but need support navigating the system.

The final session I attended focused on veteran hunger. This session explored the unique challenges that veterans face in accessing food and nutrition resources. Presenters shared data showing that many veterans experience food insecurity despite assumptions that military service automatically provides long-term stability. Barriers discussed included housing instability, disability, mental health challenges, navigating benefits systems, and lack of awareness about available resources.

One of the strongest themes throughout the session was the importance of meeting veterans where they are and building partnerships with trusted veteran-serving organizations. The presenters highlighted examples of successful collaborations between food banks, veterans' organizations, healthcare systems, and community partners.

Across all three sessions, one thing that really stood out to me was that food insecurity is often interconnected with many other systems - healthcare, housing, transportation, aging services, childcare, and veterans' services. The conversations reinforced the importance of cross-sector

	partnerships and the need to make programs easier to access for the people they're intended to serve. Those were my key takeaways. Thank you. Michelle Week [in the chat]: Aging nutrition webinar coming up: https://aspenfood.org/2026/05/18/noursing-aging/
11:05 am	Presentation: OHTF Member introduction Farmers Market Fund, Rachael Ward Presentation I'm Rachel Ward. I'm the Executive Director of Farmers Market Fund, she/her pronouns. Based out of Eugene, we're a statewide organization, though, that is focused on strengthening Oregon's food system to better serve people experiencing food insecurity. We do that in three ways: by reducing barriers to purchasing locally grown food, by supporting small farmers and markets, and by growing community-based economies. This is all grounded in the vision of a just and nourishing future where Oregonians can access and enjoy locally grown food with dignity and choice. We are a nonprofit organization that's been around since 2015. We're a small nonprofit made up of six staff. Double Up is funded primarily by both an appropriation from the State of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Human Services agency budget, as well as some matching federal USDA grant funds through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, or GusNIP program. A plug today is that we are in the process of applying for another GusNIP grant in a very short turnaround. So if you see an email from me in the next week, please pay attention to it because I'm probably asking for a letter of support that we need in a very quick turnaround in order to secure that funding and make sure Double Up continues at the level that it is. I have a short little video that I'll play, and please let me know if you can't hear the sound. All right. That's our snazzy video that we often share for folks who are learning about the program for the first time. It's a great resource, and I will share the link with folks in the chat if you want to share it out to your staff or to your communities. It's a great way to quickly and easily describe how the program works in a wide variety of outlets. As the video mentioned, we do this work in collaboration with our partners over at Oregon Food Bank to operate the grocery program and Pacific Northwest CSA Coalition, which offers Double Up at CSAs. Jill Morby: What's a CSA?

Yes, good question.

CSA is Community Supported Agriculture. It is, in simple terms, a farm subscription box. Folks usually pay up front at the beginning of the season and receive a box of food weekly, biweekly, with different share sizes.

It looks a little bit different for SNAP because there are restrictions in how far in advance people can swipe their card for food that hasn't been received. So they swipe once a month. But the idea is still to support your farmer up front and receive a great box of whatever is in season.

One other program that we also have that is little known and is relevant only for the counties where SNAP is offered as a cash benefit instead of as a food benefit for some populations. Largely for seniors in counties around the Portland metro area, SNAP can often be received as a cash benefit on their EBT card instead of a SNAP benefit.

We ran into some issues when we realized that we could not use federal funding to match cash benefits on an EBT card, so we had to create a new program called Produce Match, which functions exactly the same as Double Up but is for folks who have SNAP as cash benefits so they can still get a dollar-for-dollar match to spend on produce at farmers markets and farm stands across the counties where SNAP Cash is redeemed.

This also kind of shows you that general model of how Double Up works. Someone comes to the market or a farm, they swipe their card at an information booth, they receive tokens for SNAP, and then they receive script for Double Up Food Bucks or SNAP Cash.

This is what the Double Up script looked like from last year. It's a different color this year.

Then they go out and spend that at the vendors at the market, so it basically doubles their grocery budget that they have available to spend on fresh fruits and vegetables.

Here's where we were in 2025. This year we're looking at 107 farmers markets and 28 farm stands, and also increases in CSA and grocery participation, although I don't have those numbers handy with me right now.

We know overall the availability of this program has increased 17 percent since 2023. We've really been focused on getting the word out and getting more retail outlets to offer Double Up so that everyone can access it in their neighborhood.

I'll share some of our impacts from 2025: \$3.8 million was redeemed in fresh produce across all outlets. That's really important to think about in terms of federal dollars staying locally. That's a huge boost to our economy, a huge boost for our farmers, and a lot of revenue for small-scale farmers even when spread across a lot of different markets, farm stands, and other operations.

We continue to get really positive feedback from participants in this program about how their health has improved and how they have more food in their household overall.

That's an effect that I don't think we talk about enough. When you give folks more dollars in their budget, that means they can spread it out and aren't spending as much of their own

money on food as they otherwise would, so it frees up money to be spent on other needs in their household.

For those who participated in the program at farmers markets or farm stands, we saw increases in how often they visited. It's an incentive for folks to get out and visit their local market or local farm.

We talk a lot about the triple win of Double Up. Farmers make more money, families bring home more fresh fruits and vegetables, and federal dollars stay in the local economy.

There are a lot of other benefits too that I like to highlight.

We know that farmers are reaching a new customer base that they might not otherwise have access to. It really increases their income, and with that income we found that farmers will do things like increase the diversity of the foods they're growing, expand acreage, hire more staff to support market operations, and generally increase their operations. It has a long-term ripple effect on farm viability and sustainability.

It draws a lot of customers to markets. Markets, farmers, and vendors say that at markets offering Double Up they are seeing more customers and believe it makes the market stronger.

On the individual basis, of course it helps folks buy and eat more fruits and vegetables, but it also opens people up to other community resources, particularly if they're accessing the program at a farmers market where there may be a community booth, healthcare screening, or other services and opportunities to connect with neighbors.

It helps people feel connected and part of their community.

I also mentioned that it frees up money to be spent elsewhere.

We did a really great economic impact assessment a couple of years ago looking at data from 2022 that showed for every dollar in Double Up redeemed, there was an additional 30 cents to 65 cents in spending that occurred on other food items.

Extrapolating that to last year, that was over \$2.5 million in additional food spending outside of SNAP and outside of this program that was created because people had more money to spend on food.

We also looked at economic impact in terms of labor income. Over \$6 million in Oregon labor income was created in 2024 due to that additional spending that Double Up made possible.

That's not even the SNAP dollars or Double Up dollars going into the markets. That's what people were able to spend outside of that because they had more room in their food budgets.

We also look a lot at healthcare costs and avoided healthcare costs.

There are some huge numbers there. About \$18.5 million in avoided healthcare costs just in the last two years of this program when you look at the lifespan of community members and the impact it can have.

It has a really long-term impact. It's a very smart economic investment, which is what we talk a lot about in legislative and policy work right now. It's a great economic driver for our state and local economy.

I'll end with this call to help. We would love your help.

A majority of people who find out about this program learn about it through a trusted friend, neighbor, resource, or caseworker. We know that the number of people receiving SNAP is declining in Oregon due to eligibility changes and time limits put in place by H.R. 1.

We are really in a place right now where we're trying to make sure Double Up as a program can continue to grow. We're looking to strengthen partnerships that help facilitate promotion of Double Up.

We know we're not reaching everyone who's on SNAP. We know everyone who's on SNAP doesn't know about this program, and we really need partnerships across the state to help spread the word and make sure it becomes common knowledge.

We also need that information to come from trusted sources, especially when we're talking about vulnerable communities who may have concerns about accessing benefits in public places. The more partnerships we can lean into, the better. There are lots of different ways you can help spread the word.

DoubleUpOregon.org is your best resource for referring folks. It has a map where they can type in their address and see the closest Double Up sites. They can also call 211 and get referred to the closest site and get more information about how the program works.

We are offering a Double Up information session. If you want to learn more about Double Up and how to help spread the word, or if you have organizations you think might be good partners for community outreach, I'll drop the registration link in the chat.

It will be recorded, so feel free to register and watch later if you're not available.

Register for Double Up Info session on May 28th:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/NwTGLZYcTiG3dsqywI0kmQ#/registration>

You can also download flyers and posters directly from our website, print them out, and share them at community events, with clients, or in your offices.

<https://doubleuporegon.org/get-involved/>

Having the information spread out and facilitating that word of mouth helps a lot.

The contact information for our Communications and Outreach Specialist, Ayanna, is here. If you'd like a large batch of flyers shipped to your office, we can try to work something out.

I'll leave you all with my contact information. Please feel free to reach out anytime.

rachael@farmersmarketfund.org

Jessica:

Any other questions for Rachel? There's one in the chat.

Alex Van Pelt [in the chat]:

Why isn't the state sending out information about the program to all SNAP participants?

Rachel Ward:

Yes, we do work really closely with the Oregon Department of Human Services. We do a direct mailer campaign where information is sent out to folks who receive SNAP about this program specifically.

Unfortunately, we're really limited in how many times we can send that mailer out and how many mailers we can send, so it doesn't reach everyone. It's often only at one point during the year, and we know that the SNAP population is constantly changing as people move on and off benefits depending on their situation. It's a constant need for outreach. It isn't a one-and-done thing. It has to be consistently shared and visible. But the state does help a lot.

Tiare Sanna [in the chat]:

Do you have digital links that could be sent to WIC participants via text. We could send them when we sent the reminder to use their WIC Farmers Market coupons.

Rachel Ward:

Yes, I can share that. On our website, you can download the flyers directly, and you could link directly to the DoubleUpOregon.org website. That would be a great place for people to go and see what sites are close to them that offer this program. It also describes how the program works and has the explainer video on the site. So that's a great link to share with folks who might use the program.

Akiko Imamura Betcher:

My question was really about the printed materials. I work for Kaiser Permanente, and clinic staff have asked me frequently if we have cards to give out to patients about Double Up Food Bucks because those used to be available and were very popular among patients.

I know it costs money, but printing things at the clinics, or even just printing cards, isn't really easy nowadays. I know the state of Washington still has flyers, cards, or posters that they mail out to people. I don't know about Double Up specifically, but for programs like WIC and others.

Could that be a possibility, or is there a financial reason that it's no longer available?

Rachel Ward:

It is possible. We do print quite a lot of different flyers and posters that we mail out to many DHS offices and community partners.

Including healthcare clinics in that list is certainly possible, especially if there is one statewide or broader regional contact that we could send a larger quantity of flyers to and then have them distributed from there.

	I think time and capacity prevent us from being able to send materials to each individual clinic, but yes, Akiko, I would love to talk more about how we could get those materials out through the Kaiser offices. Akiko Imamura Betcher: Thank you. The cards were very popular, so I can even come and pick them up. Thank you. Chris Baker: I'll make sure that when I send the meeting minutes out along with the recording, all of the chat questions and links from the chat will be included and embedded in the meeting minutes so that folks can access them long after we close out this meeting. Jessica Morris: Thank you all. It looks like we're wrapping up about four minutes ahead of schedule. I appreciate you all being here today and participating in the conversation. Our next meeting will be June 23 at 10:00 a.m. Please reach out to chris@oregonhunger.org if you have any questions.
11:30 am	Adjourn

Next meeting: **June 23, 2026 10:00am-11:30am**

Attendance listed below

List of Members - Oregon Hunger Task Force | KEY: Bold = Steering Committee member. **Orange** = PHFO Board member

#	Requirement	Representation	Attendance
	Legislative Assembly members		
1	House majority	Representative Ricki Ruiz with representation from Omar Sandoval	Absent
2	House minority	Vacant	
3	Senate majority	Sen. Deb Patterson, with representation from Megan Wai	Excused
4	Senate minority	Sen. Suzanne Weber	Excused
5	Legislator serving on a committee related to human services	Rep. Tom Andersen, with representation from Andrew Hull	Absent
	State Agencies		
6	ODE, Child Nutrition Services	Dustin Melton	Absent
7	DHS, Self-Sufficiency/ SNAP	Heather Miles	Present
8	OHA, Oregon Health Authority - WIC	Tiare Sanna; Kristin Chatfield	Present
9	ODA, Oregon Department of Agriculture	Amy Gilroy	Present
10	OHCS, Oregon Housing and Community Services	Evita Marnell	Present
	Organizations that serve people affected by hunger		
11	Food Banks	Oregon Food Bank, Andrea Williams Regional Food Bank Network Representative, Courtney Nichols Marion Polk Food Share, Rick Gaupo	Andrea Williams - Present Courtney Nichols - Absent

		Lora Dexheimer, North Plains Food Bank	Rick Guapo - Present Lora Dexheimer - Present
12	Direct Service Providers	Meals on Wheels People, Jessica Morris High Desert Partnership, Kellie Frank Milk Crate Kitchen, Sherielyn Gardner Rogue Food Unites, Tania Pineda	Jessica Morris - Present Kellie Frank - Present Sherielyn Gardner - Present Tania Pineda - Present
13	Food Systems	Farmers Ending Hunger, John Burt Farmers Market Fund, Rachael Ward	John Burt - Absent Rachael Ward - Present
14	Migrant Community	Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC), Donalda Dodson	Present
15	Religious Community	Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Britt Conroy	Absent
16	Educational Institutions	OSU Policy Analysis Lab (OPAL) - Mark Edwards OSU / fka SNAP Extension - Dusti Linnell Basic Needs Oregon - Zoe Cooper-Caroselli	Mark Edwards - Present Dusti Linnell - Present Zoe Cooper-Caroselli - Present
17	Poverty-related advocacy or public policy groups	211 Info, Gabby Valdes Beth Englander, Oregon Law Center Greater Good Northwest, Eboni Brown American Heart Association, Christina Bodamer	Gabby Valdes - Present Beth Englander - Present Eboni Brown - Absent Christina Bodamer - Present
18	Culturally specific organization	Micronesia Islander Community - Jackie Leung	Present
19	Mutual aid or emergency disaster response	Office of Resilience and Emergency Management, ODHS, Jeff Gilbert	Present
	Community Members with Lived Experience		
20	Community Member	Lauren Armony	Present
21	Community Member	Angela Fancher	Present
22	Community Member	Danita Harris	Absent
23	Community Member	Kat Mahoney	Present
24	Community Member	LaTonya Meyer	Absent
25	Community Member	Michelle Week	Present
26			
27			
28			

PHFO Staff: Chris Baker; Amanda Orozco, Gabby Mijalski-Fahim

Guest(s): Tori Wild (Family Kitchen), Akiko Imamura Betcher, Alex Van Pelt, Alexis Molinari, Bennett Garner, Cady Lyon, Catie Mahoney (Ashland Community Food Bank and Rogue Valley Food System Network), Corinne Guinn (OSU Policy Analysis Lab), Jack Koran, Jill Morby (Lift Up Board), Jordan Rogers, Laura Perdue, Mary Silfven (PNWCSEA), Melina Barker, Reeb Daniel (Keep Growing Dreams Nonprofit), Rose Vakkia, Willie Chambers (Oregon Business Council Food and Beverage Members), Shelley Nelson (OSU Policy Analysis Lab), Darlene Thao (ODHS Office of Resilience and Emergency Management), Shiny Flanary (Black Food Sovereignty Coalition)