

OREGON HUNGER TASK FORCE

Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon

[Oregon Hunger Task Force](#)

Meeting MINUTES

[June 23, 2026 10:00am-11:30am](#)

Time	Item
10:00 am	Meeting Recording Welcome and Introductions (<i>Michelle Week, as representative of the OHTF Steering Committee</i>) Community Guidelines Michelle Week: I think then we're going to quickly switch to Chris who has a quick announcement to make. Chris Baker: Yes, I do. Hello, everyone. Good morning. I am Chris. I use she/her pronouns, and I am the administrator for the Oregon Hunger Task Force, and I am also on staff at Partners for Hunger Free Oregon, which, if you do not already know, is the administrative arm of the Oregon Hunger Task Force. I'm so thrilled to announce this morning that Partners for Hunger Free Oregon has a new executive director, Blythe Garma! Blythe is a passionate advocate for food and social justice. She spent over a decade in the nonprofit sector advocating for expanding economic, environmental, and housing opportunities. She was most recently the deputy director at Verde and we are so incredibly excited to have her join not only this meeting this morning, but our team to help chart PHFO's next chapter of our work. Blythe, would you like to say hello very quickly? Blythe Garma (she/her) PHFO: Thank you, Chris. Good morning, everyone. My voice is coming back, so this is a lot better than a week ago is what I've been telling folks. But I'm really excited to be here. It's day two, so I'm just excited to kind of get in here and learn everything I can and meet the team and get to work with you all. Thank you for letting me into this space. I'm excited to work together. Michelle: Excellent, thanks Blythe, welcome! We have a couple of presentations today: Colleen Heflin and Shelly Ver Ploeg are up first to share about the opportunity for Food Insecurity Data Collection through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. They will have 20 minutes to present and there will be 10 minutes for discussion or Q&A
10:05 am	Presentation: Food Insecurity Data Collection through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Colleen Heflin and Shelly Ver Ploeg

[Presentation Slide Deck](#)

Colleen M Heflin: Yeah, so first of all, I just want to thank this group for inviting me back. I was with you guys months ago, had a great discussion. I'm excited to come back. So, as you know, the USDA has stopped collecting data on food security at a national level as part of the current population survey. And so Shelly and I are part of a national group that's been trying to work with states and counties and people from all across the country on the implications of this and what it means for their own work. And one of the things that we have done is realize that there's a really good opportunity in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey that will... could actually, be better for states like Oregon, give them better information than what they were getting from the current population survey. And so Shelly, who is the former branch chief at Economic Research Service, the organization that conducted the food security survey at USDA. She has left USDA, she was managing that organization before then. She's going to give a short presentation about that opportunity in some depth, and then we can talk about what that might look like for Oregon.

Shelly Ver Ploeg: Terrific. Thank you, Colleen, and it's nice to meet everyone. So, yeah, this is... it is a mouthful, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Some people call it BRFSS. I like BRFSS (sounds out phonetically). But either way, it is a valuable tool that could potentially be used for state-level estimates and sub-state-level estimates of food security. So just to give you a little bit of background what the BRFSS is, it's a telephone survey. It surveys both cell and landlines, and it collects data on health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions use of preventive services, and a number of health-oriented questions. It is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or sometimes with federal partners, and it's collected annually in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories. It is a very large survey. Over 400,000 adults are surveyed each year and that means that there's quite a few, sample members in each state. For example, we looked up in Oregon in 2024, the sample was about 6,000 adults, and that's, as Colleen said, that's big relative to what was available in the current population survey, which is the survey that was used to measure food security through USDA, where there were about 1,600 people surveyed in Oregon. That was in 2003.

Just to give you a little more background, the BRFSS has a structure with three components. Two of them are federally funded components and one is a state funded component. So the two federally funded components, there's the core questionnaire, which is a set of questions that CDC asks and asks all states to ask in their surveys each year. So those are mandatory questions. And then there are optional modules that CDC develops or its partners in some cases. It might be other agencies, Department of Health and Human Services. It could be other agencies. Those are called optional modules. And the questions are developed, tested, and then go through the Office of Management and Budgets approval process through CDC, and then states can choose to add those optional modules to their surveys. Those are all done at federal expense. The third component are the state-added questions, and those are ones where the states have pretty good flexibility for what questions go into the survey, where they go into the survey, and how frequently they're asked. But states are responsible for the cost of them.

So those are the three components, and what we're really optimistic about is the potential to add the six-item food security questions to the state-added questions component of the BRFSS. And I'll tell you a little bit about why we're so optimistic.

So what are the potential benefits? So the six-item food security module could be added as soon as next year, starting in January. We know some states that are starting to do this, and we'd be happy to put you in touch with similar hunger organizations that are helping them to do this, but they're doing it right now. It requires almost immediate action. I've been working with one state, and I'm going to help them get their survey lined up by mid-July. So now is the time for action if you want data in 2027.

What's really exciting is that as Colleen says, this survey is big enough to provide annual level state estimates of food security. Now that's in contrast to what the USDA report gave which was 3-year moving averages. So, you know, it would have been 2024, 2025, and 2026. But you can get that on an annual basis at the state level through the BRFSS. The BRFSS is also big enough that for many states, you could get sub-state level, potentially geographic regions, potentially counties, and some subgroup level estimates of food security if there's particular demographic groups that a state might be interested in. And then the other benefit is that we know that several other states are planning to include the six-item food security scale in their BRFSS, so you could still go back and kind of compare with those states how your state is doing, um, in a similar way.

So what are the potential drawbacks? Well, the potential drawbacks are that, you know, this is done at state costs, um, state expense to the state. But we think the costs are fairly low, because you're piggybacking on this already existing survey that is mostly federally funded.

The cost per question varies by state, but they range from about \$1,500 to \$7,500 per state. So, you know, for less than \$50,000, maybe even less than, you know, around the \$30,000, \$40,000 range, you could have the six-item questions in your state. And Colleen and I are fairly confident that we could connect you to some foundations or other organizations that may be able to help pay the costs for the questions.

There are some other factors to consider. The BRFSS is a long survey, so that might have some implications about where you put the questions in the survey. It is a survey that asks people about sometimes sensitive questions. Topics like drug use, or sexually transmitted diseases. You may not want to put the question, the food security questions in that area, so it would require working with the state BRFSS coordinator to come up with a good place to ask the questions, and because it's a long survey, survey respondents might lose some interest in the survey at the end, so the end of the survey may not be the best place for the survey. So there's some things about the survey that would have to be considered.

Ideally, you would want to do this in multiple years, so you could track out a trend, and we're really thinking that if you do this on just a one-year basis without a follow-up it's going to be a lot less useful for your state. So, ideally, this is a commitment for multiple years.

And then I just want to mention, because you may, as you talk about this and you may have questions, you may know the BRFSS in your state, the CDC already has a social determinants of health optional module. That's one that's developed by CDC that states can choose to include and it includes one question from the six-item food security scale. Um, so just to be aware you wouldn't have to ask that question twice. I don't think Oregon is one of the states that chose the optional module, the Social Determinants of Health optional module, but you might hear about that as you go forward if you're talking to folks from the state.

Then the next thing is where to start. Well, each state and territory has a BRFSS coordinator. They're a CDC employee, or they're an employee of the state health department, but they work closely with the CDC on the BRFSS. And so the first thing to do is to contact your state's BRFSS coordinator, and in the case of Oregon, there are two coordinators. There's a website on the CDC where it has all of them. I've just copied the two contact people that were on the website last week and they're emails and contact information are here, and my guess is they're probably thinking about their BRFSS for next year, and this would be a really good time to reach out.

So we're happy to take some questions, here's our contact information, and and then here's the Food Security Data Collaborative website also if you need any help.

Colleen M Heflin: So let me just add that several states have passed bills to mandate the collection of food security in the BRFSS. This has happened in Virginia and New York State. These bills have passed. So given Oregon's long standing connection to food insecurity and just the creation of this task force strikes me as one of those things that might actually work in Oregon. That could probably happen for 2027. But the action has to happen pretty fast, right? But that strikes me as something that is very feasible. You know, Oregon has this commitment that's much higher than other states historically.

Michelle Week [in the chat]: What is the recommended multiple year use? 3, 5, 7? and frequency - consecutive or could we do every other year?

Colleen: In terms of the recommended, how long? I mean, honestly, I would say this task force wants this data as long as there's a task force looking at this question. It's better data than what you get with a current population survey, and because it has more sample size, you're going to actually get much, much richer data, like Shelly said, so you can get lower geographic areas and more precision for different demographic groups. And given how this group uses this measure, benchmarks off of it, and really looks at it, I think Oregon wants the best data that they can get because they want to do evidence-based policymaking. And so to me, this seems like exactly like the type of state that you would see an actual law passed to mandate this data collection.

Andrea Williams [in the chat]: Can we see the questions that would be the add ons for food insecurity?

Colleen M Heflin: Shelly, do you have the six questions handy?

Shelly Ver Ploeg: Sorry, I can get them real quickly. Maybe if there's other questions, ask that first, and then I'll plop them into the chat. How about that?

Colleen M Heflin: Yes. That sounds great.

Mark Edwards [in the chat]: Having worked with the USDA data over the years, this data set is superior in many ways. In the grand scheme of our anti-hunger efforts in OR, \$50,000 per year seems like a deal. We almost never can answer sub-state regional questions with the USDA data. (Sorry I can't jump in verbally. Getting a flat tire fixed).

Colleen M Heflin: Hi, Jessica.

Jessica Morris: Thank you for this information. I'm curious, it sounds like states are just now considering adding the six questions. Do we have any historical data of states who have used that and if not, for the one food security question that is included through the CDC, have states been using that? And if so, how has that information helped impact their hunger relief efforts?

Shelly Ver Ploeg: Yeah, that's a good question. I'll take that. I do think, I'm trying to remember that there were a couple of states that had asked the food six item questions, but I don't know, I don't have that off the top of my head. For the Social Determinants of Health Optional Module, which has the one question, um, I don't know how states have been using it. There is a website that CDC has that has some state uses, but it's very broad. So things like, you know, they use the questions on tobacco use to do policy... and I haven't seen anything with that question specifically, but I think I can do a little background and look to see if anyone has used it based on that website.

Colleen M Heflin: I can say New York used the single item question, and it's not a validated measure by itself, and so, one of the problems with using the single item question is there's a whole set of research on the causes and consequences of food insecurity that are using the validated USDA measures, and it doesn't apply to the single item measure. And so I have seen them use it in New York. It frankly comes in a little high. It's one item, it doesn't have the depth. You can get the level of severity of food insecurity if you ask all six items. So you're not just talking about one of the issues, you're really talking about a constellation of issues which have different, you know, we think of food insecurity perhaps as a continuum of coping strategies to deal with scarcity. And so, you're able to get more sense of where people are along that continuum with the six items. And that's so useful for trying to make sense as a provider of services. And it also is more valid in terms of connecting to this body of research.

Jessica Morris: Thank you.

Tania Pineda: I have this question, and you might have answered this earlier when you were presenting, but how do you plan to survey people? I did a brief Google search and it said it's the

largest like a telephone health service, but with all the scam calls people get, you know, throughout the day. How do you... what's... what's the plan on that?

Colleen M Heflin: Well, happily, it's not us surveying. This is a survey that's already happening that Oregon has already been put in the field, regardless of whether it contains this question or not, as part of the the Center for Disease Control efforts to monitor health conditions across the country. And Oregon just has an opportunity to add questions to this in Oregon. And so it's a, you know it is a telephone, land, and cell phone-based survey, but it comes off of a master sampling frame. It has a high level of validity, but Oregon doesn't have to, we don't have to do anything. All we have to do is try to advocate for these questions to be included in the survey that's going to happen anyway.

I hear you being concerned about the validity of these survey efforts. And I have to say, the phone surveys are still more valid than web-based surveys. There's some really good studies that have shown that, and there's ways of sort of waiting to correct for responses to make sure that they're representative. So your issues are absolutely valid, and you have a reason to be concerned. But, happily, these are done really well. They're done annually, and nothing will change about how the survey is conducted.

Tania Pineda: Thank you.

Donalda Dodson: Well, and the BRFSS has been around for, what, 30 years? It's not, It's not a newbie. It's a tried and true survey.

Colleen M Heflin: Exactly. Exactly. Highly, highly valid. Highly valid. Yeah. Happily, yeah, we're not suggesting anything be done to change the BRFSS, except these questions be added to it.

Kristin Chatfield: So question, hey, this is Kristen from WIC. Agreed, not very expensive and have used BRFSS data. So can you help me understand: the data I've used were of eighth graders?

Colleen M Heflin: That may be the youth behavioral risk factor surveillance.

Kristin Chatfield: There we go. OK. I was going to say, how is it different? And would we need to, would it make sense to sometimes duplicate, do we differentiate at all from the phone survey to what we use with kiddos?

Colleen M Heflin: Yeah, there's a separate one for youth, which has a whole other set of very interesting questions. Fun data to look at, but it's different than the adult one.

Kristin Chatfield: So would it potentially go into the one as well for the kiddos? Or would we just focus on adults and families?

Colleen M Heflin: So I think we were arguing to focus on adults and families. I think you could ask it of the kiddos, I don't know. Shelly, is it?

Shelly Ver Ploeg: Yeah, I don't know the structure of the youth factor, if it's the same structure where there's state added questions. Let's assume there is and we do have, I think, validated measures of youth food security, but I don't know what they're, where they're, where those are. So I think, I don't know. Potentially.

Claire Londagin [in the chat]: There isn't a validated food insecurity screening tool that is meant to be asked directly to youth. That I am aware of.

Donalda Dodson: I think it's the same. It's the same process of they select a couple questions, and somebody pays for them.

Shelly Ver Ploeg: It is? Okay.

Andrea Williams [in the chat]: Does anyone know if this has been a convo within OHA already?

Chris Baker: Colleen and Shelly, it looks like Andrea had also asked a question. Does anyone know if this has been a conversation with OHA yet?

Shelly Ver Ploeg: I don't think so. Is OHA your Department of Health?

Chris Baker: Yes, Oregon Health Authority. Apologies. We use a lot of acronyms in Oregon.

Shelly Ver Ploeg: Yeah, yeah. Sorry. If anything, I don't think so, as far as I know.

One other area where you may hear about is that Feeding America network of organizations has been also reaching out to state organizations to potentially include the six item food security questions plus three of the questions that they care more about also. So you may hear about that also, and I'm happy to put you in touch with someone there.

Shelly Ver Ploeg: Uh, also Colleen, I don't know if we've heard from anyone at the Health Department either, or maybe there's someone here.

Colleen M Heflin: I reached out to Mark Edwards, but there may be someone on this call, actually, who... knows? I saw there's some people, I saw someone in the governor's office, so I don't know. Somebody may know more than us.

Kristin Chatfield: WIC is housed in OHA.

Mark Edwards [in the chat]: I'm not aware of any discussion yet with OHA

Shelly Ver Ploeg: Looks like Rick had a question.

Rick Gaupo: Uh, I was just encouraged to hear that Feeding America was part of this conversation, because they are trying to do some national surveying on hunger. If you have a connection of who you're talking to, I'd be interested in that. I'm part of the Feeding America Network.

Shelly Ver Ploeg: Sure. Rick, if you want to send me your email, put your email in the chat, I'll put you in touch.

Rick Gaupo: Perfect, I'll do that right now, thank you.

Colleen M Heflin: Rachel?

Rachel Currans-Henry: Hi everyone, this is Rachel with Governor Kotek. I'm really glad that we're having this discussion and hearing about this option. I am aware... I've been in some discussions with other states whose offices are exploring this option. I just want to affirm what would need to happen. It sounds like there's both a — need to understand from the task force, is this a need and are these the right questions? Is this what we want to measure for food security? And having the task force say, yes, 'this is what we need to be doing'. Then, let's figure out a pathway. We would need to sit down with OHA and understand with OHA what is the current timeline that they're working on and what's the feasibility of adding those additional questions? From an operation standpoint, sounds like we also need to assess an ongoing source of funding for that source of data, correct? Those are kind of the operational efforts that we'd need to make. What would be helpful for me to know is if we need to get more alignment with a group of states for this pathway. What's the critical mass of states that you need to make sure that the data the strategy for researchers is the most meaningful set of tools?

Colleen M Heflin: Yeah, so let me just say, first of all, I think about how Oregon will use the data first. Right? And so I think for this task force, this is the right data to guide your efforts. Mark and others can disagree. I don't know that they will. But I think the question of how many states you need, you need Oregon to guide the task force. You don't need five other states. You need Oregon's data. And so I think this is the right way to continue the important work of this task force and have it be evidence-based. There are a number of states, and I have to tell you, you know, Shelly and I have a number of calls scheduled this week. We're adding them, you know much more quickly each week.

We have a piece coming out in Health Affairs Forefront, we're bringing attention. There's definitely momentum on this issue growing, and so I think there's going to be a significant number. I don't know what that number is. Feeding America is working with a set of states. Other groups are working with another set of states. We are coordinating around this. There's definitely a movement. I think you're hearing that. But I think you shouldn't let whether there's a critical number stop Oregon because Oregon needs this regardless of what the other states do. If no other state did this, I would still think this is the right move for Oregon because it's going to be better data than what you can get from the current population survey whenever that comes back. This will still be richer data that will give you finer grain geographic detail and better demographic groups that you can pull out than

	what you can get with that national measure. So don't let saving the nationals prevent you from doing something really good for Oregon. They're not in competition is what I would argue. Michelle Week [in the chat]: Do phone surveys allow for interpretation services or say reaching non-verbal folks/ the deaf community etc.? I guess, how accessible is this survey? Chris Baker: I just wanna point that there was also a question about the way that the call comes through with the questions and accessibility in the chat. So, do phone surveys allow for interpretation services, or say, reaching non-verbal folks, the Deaf community, etc? In other words, how accessible is the survey? Shelly Ver Ploeg: Yeah, that's a question I don't know the answer to, but, you know, it's a federal survey, so I'm guessing they have ways, they've thought of ways to help with that. And it could be a call-in, you know, they give a number and then it's a call-in to a service, but I will look that up. That's a great question. You know, some of the questions they're asking are probably relevant for some folks with different disabilities. So I bet the survey has thought of that quite carefully. We'll get that answered back to you. Michelle Week: Excellent. Thank you everyone for your thoughtful questions and engagement. Chris Baker: Rachel Currans-Henry is joining us from the Governor's office. She has just returned from a trip to Washington, DC. And has some important updates to share and apologies to Shawna. I had to move you, thanks, Shawna, sorry, so that Rachel could fit in her bit before she has to join another meeting as well. So we will pivot now to Rachel.
10:35 am	Rachel Currans-Henry, Office of Governor Kotek, Senior Human Services Advisor: Update from Washington DC Rachel Currans-Henry, Oregon: Oh, thanks, Chris, and apologies for the agenda shift on the calendar. So first I just want to thank everyone for continuing to gather. The fact that Oregon has this hunger task force, I just want to acknowledge, is extremely powerful and meaningful. Your work and this work of this coalition is even more important now than ever. I say that, having just come from meeting with many different states - human services leaders and governor's offices who were coming together to understand what is the state of HR1 implementation, focusing on our SNAP work. And one of the other purposes of the meeting that we were at last week was to ensure that we were doing direct federal advocacy related to H.R. 1 and SNAP. Specifically, we had a coalition of states, including five states with Republican-led governors, governors and human services directors coming together and advocating to say: if we're going to be advancing the farm relief bill, we need to also be advocating for SNAP relief. And SNAP relief in this case means we need to at least delay two years of the cost shift to states until federal fiscal year 30. That was our bipartisan message where we're pushing and advocating. States are willing to do the work to ensure integrity of our SNAP system. We're willing to do the work to make sure that we can advance quality

improvements in our SNAP program. Oregon is one of those states where we are very grateful for our legislature, last short session, for advancing the dollars for administrative cost share, for ensuring that we had dollars to do the technology advancements we need to to improve our error rates and the staffing levels. Not all states have had that level of engagement. But we have the infrastructure in place to ensure that we're on the pathway to drive down our error rate to reduce our benefit cost share. But all states are noting: you need time. We need fairness across all these states. We shouldn't be holding states accountable for performance metrics that were occurring before even the effective date of H.R. 1. That's really a key point we're stating. They're asking and essentially saying for Oregon, \$250 million, potentially, annual financial contribution to be made based on performance before a bill was even passed. That's part of that message where you have alignment across states, whether you're a Republican or Democrat, to say, that seems off. We need to make sure that we are time and tools —that this is fair. There's differences of opinions, right? As you can imagine, I think there's a much more broad message that many of the Democratic members would be noting stating we don't want any of the HR1 SNAP changes. We understand that, we support that from our seat, we want to continue to advocate for that message. And we want to make sure that our key message, at the very least, was — oh, and there's Nate, who was from Senator Merkley's office. We met with Nate last week as well — is that we need to have SNAP relief for two year delay is minimum ask.

So what's that pathway look like? I'll just note it's... it's important that we're putting the pressure on. What we heard from the delegation and from committee leaders is that being out here and actually putting that pressure on was important, because one of the next steps is that on the Senate side, there's going to be a markup of the Farm Bill, and the question is going to be, what is included in that, and how can we keep advocating for SNAP relief in the Farm Bill? That's what we're trying to do over the next few months. So that's what we're also thinking about in terms of the long run, and I think, as Rick noted, we also are making sure that we're aligning the messaging and that ask with the national anti-hunger advocates as well. The ask that we made was, I was there on behalf of the state. And the National Governor's Association was there. The American Public Human Services Association was there. But this ask is also a broader ask across a coalition of the Big 7 - a broader set of state and local government groups - the National Association of Counties, NCSL, the National League of Cities, the Association of County Human Services Administrators, and the Council of State Governments, all are examples of, and the Conference of Mayors. All these groups have signed on to a joint letter to push for that ask. So I want to make sure that folks hear and know that. We are pushing and advocating broadly alongside the anti-hunger advocates with those states and other partners as well.

Rick Gaupo [in the chat]: This two-year delay is Feeding America's #1 priority in regards to SNAP. It appears to be the issue that has the most likely traction.

That was one part of our visit. The second part of our visit was really to make sure that we are learning best practices and learning from other states as leaders about how are we doing with HR1 implementation? How are we doing? Where can we be in making improvements? And where do we

need to be thinking differently? Across the board, I just want to acknowledge that many state leaders across the room were, just like Oregon, looking at our enrollment numbers, and acknowledging that the... the level of enrollment drop-off that we've seen on SNAP in the last year is higher than we anticipated. And every single state is noting that. We're trying to understand why, and we know we need to do data analysis. We know we need to have a different methodology. We need to survey. We need to understand why this occurred. And I just want to acknowledge, again, pivoting to where you started this discussion: How are we leveraging and thinking about the broader system? Where are we understanding? How are we going to do some of that additional analysis and work with our researchers, work with our partners? What is driving some of those enrollment changes? And then what is that impact that it has on the broader food system? And how do we think holistically about food security? That really is the important message that we are all thinking about as well.

We want to make sure that we continue to partner with this Oregon Hunger Task Force to hear from you about where do we go from here? So with all of these pieces coming together, what are some of the most critical next steps that we need to be thinking about in the state of Oregon, given this broader lens of change that we're navigating as we think about the next steps? Input that is being put into our Plan for Resilient Oregon, for example, as thinking about food system security as part of our broader resiliency strategies for the state. And we want to make sure we continue to listen and work with you to hear what your recommendations are as you think about next steps for our strategic food security plan that we need to be working through. And what should that look like? So I am here with that both update and advocacy message about the work that we're doing and where we're going to continue to push at the Federal level, and to really acknowledge the work that we're continuing to do with the department on making sure that we get this right, and that we are doing the most we can to mitigate impact on Oregonians, and to make sure that we are driving the performance improvement that we can, so we reduce future cost impact for the state. And we want to make sure that we're partnering with you and listening about what else we need to be thinking about in that overarching food security next steps work. And we look forward to continuing these discussions with you. So Chris, that's the summary of my message today and open to have some dialogue.

Chris Baker (she/her), Hunger-Free Oregon: We have a couple of minutes before we need to pivot to the next presentation. So if folks have questions directly for Rachel, now is the time to ask them. And Rick is right on cue.

Rick Gaupo: Rachel, first of all, I think this is great. I think advocating for this two-year delay is meaningful and has some pathways across the country to make that happen. I think this is where I get confused as an Oregonian in a mostly blue state, two Democratic legislators, five out of six, uh, uh, uh, two Democratic senators, five out of six legislators. I get confused on what pressure and influence that would be helpful from the local level? You're already on board, the governor's already on board, so what's helpful for our messaging?

Rachel Currans-Henry, Oregon: Yeah, thanks, Rick. One of the areas that I heard is that we need to think about framing.... As I reflect on discussions, there was almost this interpretation of what we've seen in the decline in SNAP numbers of interpreting this as : "That's great. That's exactly what we intended to have happen because we shouldn't have this reliance on government assistance, right?"

Rick Gaupo, He/Him, Marion Polk Food Share: No.

Rachel Currans-Henry, Oregon: That is not our belief but that is what we heard. So we need to understand and think about what are those stories and what are those examples of how SNAP is really helping to support working families as well at the local level and that. And those examples of not having access to SNAP, how it impacts the local economies. I think this is really important. So I'm giving those as observations, right? To share what messages were sticking and what wasn't? Just acknowledging, it felt like we needed more stories about why and how the... what is the real person impact of the reduction, and what that really means to the system as a whole. So I think that's where we need a little bit more of on the ground thinking and understanding what the impacts are locally. That could be powerful. Yeah, and then the other area that we're monitoring nationwide, to your question, is there are some states have county-administered systems, and so the broader question becomes, what happens when the county can't pay the cost share. And so what does that mean? What happens? Can each individual county drop out of the SNAP program? What does that mean in terms of the state responsibility versus county responsibility? That's where counties are putting pressure on as well and asking for clarity there because some states are already having some of those discussions about potentially, what does a world without SNAP look like? And I think having those discussions and elevating that harm and what that would do is where I think that's where you're going to see some movement. once you start seeing counties having some challenges with being able to participate in SNAP. That's my guess here in terms of where we can see some movement happening.

Rick Gaupo: So you, from Oregon and Oregon nonprofits, you need less ambassadors right now for the two-year delay, but more gathering and conveying of real impacts for people being dropped off of SNAP. Of course, if you slash SNAP, and then you call it a win, because look how few people are on SNAP. You know, you need impact stories. Okay, that's helpful.

Rachel Currans-Henry, Oregon: Exactly. And I think those impact stories would be helpful for all of our delegation, I would say, to understand that.

Rick Gaupo, He/Him, Marion Polk Food Share: Yep. Yep. Okay, thank you. That's helpful.

Jessica Morris [in the chat]: Stories, of course AND data. Another good reason to add the 6 questions to the BRFSS.

Kristin Chatfield [in the chat]: Yes! I also heard from a researcher recently who was testing messaging reception. Individual stories were easier to "poke holes" into and evaluate the individual

"worthiness" or deservedness...while messaging that included values were more accessible to get folks to agree.

Chris Baker: I'll just back that up by saying that when I and a group of us from Oregon were visiting our federal delegates' offices back in April? March? I don't remember when we went. That is their consistent ask every single time - is what voices from Oregon can we bring to tell the story about impact in our meetings at those federal levels? So that's, I think, something that we can all work on here. Partners for Hunger Free Oregon is doing a big SNAP outreach tour across the state of Oregon, starting next month, and we will be collecting stories on impact. And we're hoping to align it with DHS's data so that we have both that quantitative data and that qualitative data that really tells a clear picture of impact to the state of Oregon. So I hope I didn't jump in front of someone. Eric, I think I saw you had your hand up earlier.

Eric Richardson: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, right quick.

Willie Chambers: No, no going in here.

Eric Richardson: Okay, yeah, hey brother, Chambers. Yeah, go ahead, right ahead, Willie.

Willie Chambers: Yep. I just wanted to concur first and foremost with what Chris was saying, but really I wanted to ask Rachel. Have you heard of Senator Wyden's original 2020 declaration - Oregon's strategic food reserve? And if you haven't, that's been in discussion over the last year or so. And I think it fits into the whole conversation that we're having and I'd like to look up and bring, Colleen, and even Shelly, and definitely Chris, into that conversation with you. So we can possibly talk with Ron Wyden's team here in Oregon to revisit that, but a strategic food reserve, I think, would be something to look at as well.

Rachel Currans-Henry, Oregon: Thank you, Willie. I appreciate that suggestion and happy to follow up on that idea. That's helpful.

Willie Chambers: Okay.

Eric Richardson: Yeah, thank you. So I think, uh, I would just, you know, I know it's all been said before, but, um, really this whole emphasis on our youth and our children, the impact on our children, and the fact that the Department of Education is being maxed out, and we know how many of our kids eat at school. And during even the school year, down here in Eugene at 4J, we had a \$30 million budget cut at 4J, and so Food for Lane County, our local food bank, is actually feeding all the kids that the school district would have fed during the summer. You know, so there's this, this connection here, and we need to really talk about the welfare of our children, and it's also, we can't shy away from the fact that, there's a connection between the racial makeup of... of our children going forward, being that they're over 50% children of color, non-white, and more, uh, and the dis... you know, and not caring about them, saying, well, the financial red line, bottom line, means more than mission. And so, um I just really just want to put that out there and just really push back against

this whole idea of the fractal idea that's going on with DOGE. Because it's still with us, because they set in motion this whole emphasis on we need to clean up the bottom line, and we can't be paying for this and that. In fact, we can't. And so, I think we need to reevaluate some of these things. So I really appreciate the governor's office connecting the dots, between health, food, uh, civil rights, social justice, all these things, environmental, climate justice. And so the more collective impact we can do with our budgets and with the understanding, the connections, the better. But yeah, it's all about our children, and how can we, uh, emphasize that they're abandoning, that stewardship piece. Thank you.

Rachel Currans-Henry, Oregon: Thank you, Eric. Well stated.

Chris Baker [in the chat]: Eric, FFLC feeding 4J is an excellent reminder also that Food Banks are being asked to do more with less in these unprecedented times. Feeding kids at school remains a top priority especially as more and more families are losing SNAP or having their SNAP budget reduced significantly (which affects Community Eligibility for free/reduced school lunches)

Rachael Ward [in the chat]: From the Double Up Food Bucks side we are very concerned about the conferred eligibility implications of less people on SNAP. Less folks receiving benefits means drops in a lot of other services that use SNAP as an eligibility criteria, like Double Up. That would be all well and good if there were less people on SNAP because they no longer need food support but we know that's not the case. So it has implications on how much other non-governmental services can help and could also have implications on funding for social services that use SNAP as eligibility criteria.

Shiny (no last name noted) [in the chat]: SNAP retailer reauths have been a nightmare as far as I have heard/experienced.

Rachael Ward [in the chat]: Yes, there's definitely concerted efforts to make it more difficult for retailers to even accept SNAP.

Michelle Week: Britt, would you like to jump in?

Britt Conroy: Yeah, thank you. Rachel, thank you. Britt Conroy with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). Thank you, Rachel, for being here, for your time today, and for your advocacy in D.C. I, just would urge the governor to continue to speak about SNAP cuts the way she did when H.R. 1 passed. She really showed strong leadership in casting that congressional action as a moral failing, as an act of greed, and I think every time we're in conversations where we have to solve the mess that HR1 created, I think we need to continue to have our leaders speak to the fact that this was a bill that was passed in order to give tax cuts to the wealthy, and to fund a seven-fold increase in ICE to carry out a mass deportation campaign in our country, and I think we need to continue to make sure that the narrative around HR1 is not just on technical and filling the gas, but also this larger political choice, like the governor did when the bill was passed.

I'll say, for EMO, we intersect with HR1 in many, many ways, and we feel like the SNAP cuts are just a prelude to an even larger problem in the Medicaid space, as you know. But in the refugee space, I'll just say that we have seen a tenfold increase in the number of refugee households that are at risk of eviction because their budgets were slashed by SNAP cuts, and so I would also just urge the governor to continue to, I'll just say that refugee families would, love to be on par with other Oregon families where they have, to abide by the horrible work or volunteer requirements as opposed to being eliminated from SNAP simply because of their status. So just can you highlight these issues? I really appreciate your work and the partnership.

Rachel Currans-Henry, Oregon: Thank you, Brett. Appreciate all those words, and we'll make sure we share that with the governor.

Chris Baker (she/her), Hunger-Free Oregon: I'll just say on a hopeful note, Rachel, you presenting on all of this - the messaging that food advocates have been speaking for for quite a while since last year, since HR1, and it's encouraging to hear that it's catching up to these larger coalition spaces. And so we have this larger, united front of a voice. And so that gives me hope that we are making something change. We're making it move, slowly but surely.

Rachel Currans-Henry, Oregon: Agree, Chris. Thank you for your leadership and for everyone on this call for continuing to push. That's what we need.

Jil Morby [in the chat]: What are the people who have dropped out of SNAP doing for food support now?

Michelle Week: And Jill had a question in there in the chat. What are the people who have dropped out of SNAP doing for food support now?

Michelle Week: I don't know if anyone here today could illuminate that.

Rick Gaupo: Well, we know they're coming to food banks. We see record high number of people coming.

Tori Wild [in the chat]: Some are coming to free meal sites

Andrea Williams [in the chat]: Oregon Food Bank is seeing the same, increase in pantry visits

Jessica Morris [in the chat]: We're delivering more than 10,000 meals a month now than we were last year at this time.

Eric Richardson: Same. I'm part of an effort to give away fresh organic produce on a biweekly basis at a market that we're having at a local food bank. And we did a USDA survey and over half of the people were saying that they're hungry at least once a month because of food. I mean, because of money, in that survey. It's six easy questions. Uh, but, uh, we are definitely seeing an uptick on that, especially at the end of the month. It's very interesting - half, you know, double the amount of people at the end of the month than you do on the first, serving, you know. So, yeah, we're seeing them there, and I'm looking forward to interacting with those folks more, because it is an issue, and they do feel just the relief of being in company and being in a neighborhood where people are growing food. We do have a strong neighborhood association that's growing food and sharing those locations, with people and whatnot. So, more of that, yeah. They are coming.

Rose Vakkia: Hi everyone. Sorry, I don't know how to raise my hand, so I'm just going to talk if that's okay. My name is Rose. I work for the D Rose Community Bridge here in Portland. We do weekly food drives, but these days, we see daily people coming to look for food, because there's no SNAP anymore. Moms coming and crying and saying, we haven't had food since

	yesterday. We used to have extra bread, we don't anymore because people are just looking for what to eat. It's now a daily thing, not a weekly thing, like we used to have just, uh, people, 300 people showing up every Saturday. Now we have 10, 15, 20 people showing up daily, looking for, even if it is bread, for them to take home. So, yeah, it is really bad. Thank you. Michelle Week: Yeah, I own and operate a farm here in Troutdale, and I've definitely seen a drop in purchased community-supported agriculture, CSA, direct-to-consumer boxes I do, and an increase in what I do have are folks who are taking advantage of the free food boxes I do my best to deliver and put out there. Definitely feeling it here, too. Tiare Sanna [in the chat]: We encourage people to refer to WIC for those eligible populations. We are funded to serve our population and are still able to support refugee populations. Chris Baker [in the chat]: Tiare, PHFO would love to chat with you about a social media awareness campaign to get that word out! Colleen Heflin [in the chat]: thank you for having me. please reach out with questions: cmheflin@syrr.edu Shelly Ver Ploeg [in the chat]: Thank you for inviting me. Please reach out if you have further questions about food security measurement and the BRFS: sverploegprof@gmail.com Michelle Week: And there's a great chat going on in there, but I do feel like it's feeling we're ready to move on to our next presenter, but definitely keep the chat going, and Rachel, thank you so much, and if you have last parting thoughts...Nope. Perfect. Have a good rest of your day. Next up is Shawna Care, who will provide information on the Oregon Health Plan and Veggie Rx program. Shawna will also have 20 min to present with 10 min. For discussion or Q+A
11:05 am	Presentation: Oregon Health Plan and Veggie Rx, Shawna Care, Medicaid Division, Oregon Health Authority Presentation Slide Deck OHA Pantry Stocking and Fruit and Vegetable Benefits Website *Please also see OCFSN's HRSN Nutrition Learning Collaborative page links below Shawna Care: Oh, good morning, everybody. Um, yeah, a little bit different than VeggieRx, but we'll kind of weave things in there. So, I'm Shawna Care, one of the operations and policy analysts on the waiver team, on the 1115 waiver team for OHA, and we wanted to talk a little bit about some nutrition benefits - this is a waiver that covers 2022 to 2027, September 2027, with the idea that food is nourishment and much more than calories and, wanting to be able to provide benefits to help us build memories, and support, and family and cultural traditions, that really revolve around food so often. So we launched in January with medically tailored meals and nutrition education. And also a component of that is assessment for medically tailored meals. And so I can certainly come back at another time and chat through those benefits. But today, we really wanted to talk about

pantry stocking benefit and the fruit and vegetable benefit. And then we'll get into eligibility also. But just to give a little bit of an overview about what the pantry stocking benefit is launching July 1st. So we're really excited about this. And so it's going to be able to run from July 1st, and it'll end September 30th of 2027, and pantry stocking aligns very well with the SNAP-approved food products. It can be a variety of dairy, meats, fruits, and vegetables. It can be fresh, frozen, dried, canned, so there's a large variety there. And we have found that delivering food benefits is very difficult, as you all know.

So we are trying to create a program that has two different delivery methods. We have a pantry stocking grocery box method and then a pantry stocking benefit card method we're launching. So we know that this is a big learning experience for us to deliver these benefits through Medicaid and through health related social needs, so we're learning, we want to kind of nail down some best practices for the next time. And there's going to be variability across the state as to what the members' experience will be and what program might be available to them. So this is available for all open card members and any OHP member that is with a community care organization or a CCO. And there's multiple providers across the state aligned with the different CCOs and with OpenCard. There are box providers and there are card providers. We've allowed in the rules to be able to allow community supported agriculture programs also a voucher token programs. I'm not aware of any voucher or token programs, but we do have the card programs. And so if we look at the grocery box. Well, if we look across and we look at the different models that are available in different areas of the state.

We've tried to take some of the variability out, but allow for enough to be able to meet those members needs. And so everybody has a different need. And and so a member might only have access to Box, they might only have access to a card program, and in a minute here, so it really depends on where they're located, where the health plan is and the member's needs. This is at an individual level. It is not at a household level. However, any member within a household who is eligible to receive these benefits can receive these benefits at any time that they're eligible. And so, let's just say that there's a member with maybe 5 members in the household, and 4 of the members happen to be eligible for the benefit and that 26 weeks really gives a little bit of a fudge factor, and the ability if a member's receiving a box, and maybe they won't be able to receive it for a week, they're in the hospital, or on vacation, or just not home for some reason. They can put a pause for up to 2 weeks with a box and be able to allow a little bit of flexibility that way.

The card programs are a combination of, it could be a physical card, it might be a QR code, could be an electronic-based card. There's some variability depending on who the provider is that the certain CCO would have. There's also a couple of providers that are linked directly with like a grocery store chain like Safeway, Albertsons or Fred Meyer, something like that. So there's there's also cards that have a little bit more variability. Maybe there might be 3 to 4 different

grocery systems within a county that a member could utilize their card at. But there's some... there is some variability there. The box can... is typically delivered to someone's home. If it's a CSA program, then we have allowed in the rules that there could be a designated person to purchase things like shampoo or pet food or whatnot.

So, Amy, thank you for waiting patiently. How can we, what do we have here?

Amy Gilroy, ODA: Hi, thank you for the explanation of the pantry stocking program. I really appreciate it. My question is about the service model, and whether there's an opportunity, or was there an exploration of looking at ways that some of the programming can be incentivizing Oregon producers beyond the community supported agriculture, the CSA program, but looking at some of the other items that are eligible that are more than, um, more than fresh produce, but, you know, products that are minimally processed or further processed in Oregon. And the reason I ask that is, you know, we're losing about a thousand manufacturing food manufacturing jobs every year in Oregon, and that really affects, you know, not only those industries and the economy, and of course those employees, but also the opportunity for our producers or our growers to have their... their products picked up by those manufacturers as well, in terms of being a supply for them. I'm just curious in this process where the opportunity is to focus on promoting or encouraging Oregon purchases or Oregon-sourced purchases with the food staples and the pantry stocking options. I mean, it's great to see the CSA program included, and I wonder if there's further to be able to do that, I'm wondering if there's further procedures or or opportunities to look at.

Shawna: Yeah, I really appreciate this, Amy. And this has, we've had many different variations that we looked at and what we felt is, I guess, is paramount was to get the hands and the food of the members who need it, the right kinds of food, the time that they need it, that type of thing. And so we had to, we definitely have a lens for Oregon and supporting Oregon grown, and it's woven in there. Our CCOs had the ability to utilize, some. We talked with so many of the different potential providers. It was, you know, how can you tap into local? And local was defined as really within Oregon or those bordering states. And we had a little bit more opportunity for local Oregon grown. Again, that's really relying upon the community care organizations, and they have done just a really fabulous job of building those relationships and trying to build the capacity.

One of the things that we needed to do was provide a year round program. And so the Community care organizations have the ability to pull, I guess, some levers of being able to provide certain things during the growing seasons and then other programs to support. And whether they have a box or a card, and then maybe there's a card program. But there's you know, the member doesn't have transportation, that type of thing. Then a box program might meet that member's need a little bit better or different than a card. Some of the Ccos are going box only programs. They won't have a card option. Some are going card only to where they

won't have a box option, and then open card members, depending on where they live, will have box and card options. So there's a lot of variability. We're trying to really meet that member's needs. And again, this is at the individual level, not the household level. And it's 24 weeks of services across that 26 week time period and delivered to a member's home, or in some cases there might be a designated pickup area, and then the approved food purchases on the fruit and vegetable card are aligned with WIC fruit and veg.

Okay, let's go ahead and go on to... that's kind of, in a nutshell, what the fruit and veg and pantry stocking benefits are... and then... now, who gets them? So first of all, a member must be an Oregon Health Plan member, and then that's kind of the 1, 2, 3, 4s of eligibility. Experiencing a certain life situation, qualifying health conditions, Low or very low food security, service-specific requirements. Now I recognize that our eligibility is very complicated, so we've tried to simplify it. In the process of simplifying, we lose really critical nuances. But, let's go through this, and then maybe we can sprinkle in, um, some more information for clarity.

Okay, so qualifying life situations. This could be a member has to be OHP and now have a qualifying life situation. They could be a young adult with special health care needs. They could be having left a mental health or substance use disorder treatment facility in the last 12 months. Having left incarceration in the last 12 months, and being in the Oregon child welfare system, foster care, now or in the past. Going from Medicaid-only benefits to qualifying for Medicaid plus Medicare, experiencing homelessness, and at risk of becoming homelessness. So those are the qualifying life situations. If they have one of those, and they... then we'll search a little more. If they don't have one of those, then we know that they would not be eligible.

So, now we have the qualifying health and the social condition. So, with the health condition, a complex behavioral health need, development disability need, complex physical health need. Difficulty with self care and daily activities, experience with abuse or neglect, use of emergency rooms or crisis centers often. Pregnant or gave birth in the past 12 months, a child 6 years of age, that's, like, under 6 years of age, adult 65 years of age or older, and then, again, young adults with special health care needs, that Weishen population. So, if they've... if they have one of those health conditions, then we look at the social condition here for nutrition benefits is having low or very low food security. So then, if they are screened and assessed as having low or very low food security, then we would go on to the benefit specific eligibility. So, for both pantry stocking and fruit and veg, the member must not reside in an institutional setting that's required to provide its residents with meals. So that would be kind of for fruit and veg. If they had all those other things, they didn't reside in the institution that offered meals, then they could be seen as eligible.

And then for pantry stocking, a member has to have all that for fruit and veg, and then they also must be a child under 21 that YSHN, or that Young Adult with Special Health Care Needs

population, or pregnant at the time that they're being assessed and authorized. That's eligibility.

Rachael Ward: Do you have a list of the foods that are eligible for the pantry stocking benefit and is it a \$\$ amount that individuals are given or an allotment of # of items?

Jessica Morris: More of a comment just based on our experience as a FMIC accredited organization who has been working with CCOs to provide medically tailored meals. That initial, that very first criteria is very limiting for people who are exiting the hospital or have chronic conditions, health conditions. So it really impacts providers' ability to receive referrals and then also provide nutritional support to people who may otherwise be eligible. And I realize that those are the rules, but if you have an opportunity to loosen that up, we'll be able to serve more Oregonians.

Shawna: Oh, I so appreciate that. And it's a little bit, it's not as stringent for pantry stocking and fruit and veg as it is for medically tailored meals because we don't have that registered dietitian and nutrition care plan piece. But, yes, I'm...

Jessica Morris: It's still, that's a very narrow population for people who are food insecure and experiencing a health situation.

Shawna: Right. Yes, I absolutely hear that. And we will certainly have some opportunities to hear more and collect more information. So thank you.

Jessica Morris: Thank you.

Rachael Ward: Yeah, thank you. Um, a couple of questions. I might have missed this, but these eligibility criteria, are they the same for the pantry stocking and the fruit and veggie benefit, or are they different?

Shawna: Yeah, so, um, I say yes, and you have a two-part question. Um, so the qualifying life situations, that is the same for both. Um, the qualifying health and social condition is the same for both. So the one that is different is for pantry stocking, a member must be a child under 21, YSHN, or pregnant.

Rachael Ward: I see. Okay, so it would be possible for a member to get both the pantry stocking and the fruit and veggie benefit. They would just have to meet both of these criteria.

Shawna: Kind of the eligibility overview. So we're here, we have a member as a child that has an open case with Child Welfare in Oregon. Their qualifying health condition is that they've been

diagnosed with cancer. Qualifying social conditions is that they don't have enough food to eat and they've been screened for that with the six question screener. And then the benefit specific eligibility is a member, a child that is under five. So, with your point there, they can have pantry stocking or fruit and veg. Pantry stocking is a much more generous benefit. We would certainly encourage them to have this first, um, and then, if they still, um, would be eligible, then to do the fruit and vegetable benefit. A member can receive medically tailored meals, pantry stocking, and fruit and vegetable, just not at the same time. But all of those benefits are benefits that are allowed for up to 6 months. I think that's it on eligibility, but any questions on there? And thank you, Rachel, for pointing that out.

Rachael Ward: Yeah, thank you. That helped a lot. I had two other little questions that I threw in the chat that aren't urgent, but might be good to just answer them now. Do you have a list of foods that are eligible for the pantry stocking benefit? Then I just wanted to clarify if it's a dollar amount that individuals are given, or if it's, like, an allotment of number of items, or if that really changes depending on if it's the box method or the card method.

Shawna: Those are excellent questions. The list of foods, they're, um, outlined in the Oregon Administrative Rules, but I can certainly send some information to Chris. They'll be posted on our website prior to launch. They might be on there today. I did not look this morning, but between now and July 1st you can see those easily, but I will certainly forward some more information.

And then, as far as, um, the difference between the box program and the card program, this is a supplemental food program, so we can provide up to 80% of someone's daily intake for ease of administering the program. A child and an adult receive the same amount and so, it's approximately, um, \$23 a week for fruit and veg, and it's approximately \$61 a week for pantry stocking benefits, um, and most of those benefits are provided in a monthly program. The card program does not roll over, so it is a use it or a lose it. Most of the card providers allow for one month or four weeks at a time to be loaded. So, it might be an actual calendar month, or it might be 4 weeks. So, if it's, um, a 4-week provider, then it might be, like, from July 15th until August 10th or something like that. Then those funds would be cut off, and then reloaded, um, and then they could use the funds the next month for up to 6 months.

Rick Gaupo: Yeah, real short then. I'd say, first of all, uh, we are a recipient of the grant from Pacific Source to implement it in Marion and Polk counties, um, and the, uh, qualifying and eligibility, uh, well, so easily to lay out does seem a little, uh, still complicated and.

Rick Gaupo, He/Him, Marion Polk Food Share: Um, so we'll find out if it is complicated. Here's my question, though. Uh, you said September, I presume that's when the medical waiver 1115 is when it... September of 2027 is when you think that this program will end. Is there a pathway for this to be extended if the medical waiver 1115 doesn't get extended?

Shawna: Those are great questions. I know that so many different options are being looked at. I just don't have that answer.

Rick Gaupo: Yep. Okay. That makes sense.

Shawna: Yeah. I would love to come back with an answer, a positive answer in the future, but thank you for asking that. I'll certainly bring that back to the team.

Rick Gaupo: Great. Thank you.

Shin Lee [in the chat]: Sharing OCFSN's HRSN Nutrition Learning Collaborative page since we have a number of resources focused including FAQs, simplified policy updates/guidance materials, and more.

- [OCFSN HRSN Webpage](#) Find information about HRSN, the current 1115 Waiver Demonstration, and resources for prospective and contracted HRSN Nutrition Service Providers.
- Find answers to frequently asked questions from OHA, CCOs, and current HRSN service providers in the [OCFSN Quarterly HRSN FAQ](#).
- See one clear visual of all eligibility criteria for each nutrition service type in the OCFSN [HRSN Nutrition Eligibility Matrix](#).

Chris Baker: There's one last question in the chat from Lora - I might have missed this, but where do people pick up the boxes? Do you have information about this and that she can post at her food bank?

Shawna: Oh, awesome. Boxes will generally, I would say probably 90% of the time, be delivered to a member's home. So that's across the state for all of the different eligible members. But there will be, by the different coordinated care organizations, they will have certain providers that may offer that pickup location, and so it'd be working with those individual providers or those CCOs that provide that option. So that's a non-answer answer.

Shawn: You all do amazing work. We would love to come back in this space. I just really appreciate the time.

Michelle Week: Excellent. Thank you, everyone. I always love our meetings. I learned so much and you all have such great conversations, so I really appreciate the engagement and the questions and the resource sharing in the chat. We're right on time. I don't think there were any more immediate announcements. All resources and notes and whatnot will be sent out to folks with relevant attachments and slide decks and whatnot. Thank you all so much for attending and being here and engaging. Such a great community.

	Chris Baker: Thank you all, Our next meeting will be July 28th at 10am. Please reach out to chris@oregonhunger.org if you have any questions.
11:30 am	Adjourn

Next meeting: **July 28, 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	present
4	Senate minority	Sen. Suzanne Weber	absent
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	excused
8	OHA, Oregon Health Authority - WIC	Tiare Sanna; Kristin Chatfield	Tiare, Kristin, 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 Lora Dexheimer, North Plains Food Bank	Andrea, present Rick, present Lora, present Courtney, absent
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, present Kellie, absent Tania, present Sherielyn, absent
13	Food Systems	Farmers Ending Hunger, John Burt Farmers Market Fund, Rachael Ward	Rachael, present
14	Migrant Community	Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC), Donalda Dodson	present
15	Religious Community	Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Britt Conroy	present
16	Educational Institutions	OSU Policy Analysis Lab (OPAL) - Mark Edwards OSU / fka SNAP Extension - Dusti Linnell Basic Needs Oregon - Zoe Cooper-Caroselli	Mark, present Zoe, present Dusti, absent
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, present Beth, absent Eboni, absent Christina, excused

18	Culturally specific organization	Micronesia Islander Community - Jackie Leung	Jacki, present
19	Mutual aid or emergency disaster response	Office of Resilience and Emergency Management, ODHS, Jeff Gilbert	Jeff, excused
	Community Members with Lived Experience		
20	Community Member	Lauren Armony	absent
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; Gabby Mijalski-Fahim, Blythe Garma, Amanda Orozco

Guest(s):

Sarah Arbuckle and Rep. Lamar Wise, HD48
Shelly Ver Ploeg, National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy
Claire Londagin, and Shin Lee, OCFSN
Catie Mahoney, Ashland Food Bank
Jil Morby, Board for LIFT Up
Colleen Heflin, Syracuse University
Jared Hibbard-Swanson, he/him, OSU Extension
Jasmine Kueber, Tualatin Food Bank
Gene Griffith, Gold Beach Community Food Co-op
Angelo Arredondo, OCTPET
Nate Sansone, Office of Sen. Merkley
Kelsey Hill, Oregon Food Bank
Rachel Currans-Henry, Office of Governor Kotek
Shawna Care, OHA
Jacque Velasco, student
Tori Wild, Family Kitchen
Catie Mahoney
shiny flary, Black Food Sovereignty
Rose Vakkia, De Rose Community Bridge
Willie Chambers, Community Food Voice and Advocate
Ally Meyer, Oregon Food Bank
Jordan Rogers, Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub
Jared Hibbard-Swanson, Future Generations Collaborative
Jasmine Kueber
Josh Thompson, OHA
Nik Vincent
Kate Alperin, Tualatin Food Pantry
Nicky Ulrich, OHSU
Melina Barker, OFSN
Crystal Trescartes, Future Generations Collaborative
Eric Richardson, Beyond Toxics
Alice Morrison, Friends of Family Farmers