

Everyone can play a role

Courtesy of Food For Lane County

Envisioning a hunger-free Lane County means we must build partnerships across the public and private sectors. No other organization or individual can do more to help put food on the table for people in need than our partnerships with our community and our government. FOOD for Lane County works with elected officials to share information on the impact of food insecurity in their communities and to support policy solutions to put our neighbors in need on the road to healthy, hunger-free lives.

Your voice can and will make a difference. Help us build a powerful movement to eliminate hunger in Lane County and to advocate for programs and policies that bring relief to individuals and families struggling to get by.

FOOD for Lane County's hunger relief efforts are focused on

providing food assistance and increasing self-sufficiency for our neighbors living on limited resources. Our mission of alleviating hunger by creating access to food is accomplished with tremendous support from our community and through a variety of innovative programs. We continually work to develop programs and services that respond to the unique needs of special populations, and we work to ensure that these services are delivered with respect and compassion.

The entire food banking system is built on partnerships and collaboration. While FOOD for Lane County administers many of its own programs, we rely on our network of approved partner agencies to distribute the majority of the food we collect. All FFLC Partner Agencies are their own, independent, non-profit or religious organization. Most are staffed by volunteers and are great places to work and volunteer in direct service.

Current issues

Federal issues Child Nutrition Reauthorization

While there are many challenges facing our country, we need to be sure that solving the issue of childhood hunger is a top priority. Forty nine percent of children enrolled in Oregon public schools qualify for free and reduced priced meals. Please encourage your members of Congress to do all that they can to ensure all of our nation's children have access to healthy, nutritious food so that they can thrive.

State issues

Oregon Hunger Response Fund Food banks across Oregon depend on the State's contribution to fighting hunger, The Oregon Hunger Response Fund. FOOD for Lane County uses our portion of this fund to help with food drives and building our relationships with grocers for the Fresh Alliance Program. This

incredible program enables us to offer more variety and to get fresh, healthy foods into the emergency food system. Please thank and encourage your state legislators to continue to support the Oregon Hunger Response Fund.

Our victories

Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit, 2014
In April, 2014 Governor Kitzhaber signed the Crop Donation Tax Credit into Law. This bill reinstated and increased a tax credit for farmers based on the wholesale value of surplus crops donated to food banks and other charitable institutions. Farmers can receive a 15% tax credit based on the wholesale value of their donated products, and can carry the credit forward for up to three years. Please help us encourage farmers to utilize the credit, and help bring more healthy produce to those struggling with hunger in our community.

Nutrition Education

Courtesy of Food for Lane County

FOOD for Lane County's Nutrition Education Program provides nutrition education, basic cooking skills and tips on how to stretch limited food budgets to income-eligible audiences throughout Lane County. We currently have two education programs: Cooking Matters and Cooking Matters at the Store.

Cooking Matters

Cooking Matters is a cooking-based nutrition education program.
• Learn how to prepare healthy, tasty meals on a limited budget
• Practice fundamental lessons including knife skills, reading ingredient labels and cutting up a whole chicken.
• Learn how to make a healthy meal for a family of four on a \$10 budget

At the end of each lesson, participants take home ingredients to practice preparing the recipe taught that day. Classes are taught by volunteers and administered by FOOD for Lane County in partnership with Oregon Food Bank and with the support of Share Our Strength.

Cooking Matters at the Store

Cooking Matters at the Store meets adults at the grocery store for a learning experience that teaches participants how to make positive changes to their food shopping habits.

Topics include:

- Reading and understanding nutrition fact labels and unit pricing
 - Choosing healthy food from every section of the grocery store
 - Other ways to stretch a food budget without minimizing quality
- If you are interested in scheduling classes or volunteering for the Nutrition Education Program, contact FFLC Nutrition Education Program Coordinator Dana Baxter or call (541) 343-2822 Ext. 356.



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