

Programs for Seniors

Courtesy of Food for Lane County

FOOD for Lane County's senior nutrition programs (Senior Grocery and Meals on Wheels) are designed to meet the nutritional needs of adults 60 and older.

Senior Grocery

The Senior Grocery Program provides low-income seniors with a once monthly food box (or bag) filled with nutritious staple foods necessary to a balanced diet.

Am I eligible?

- To qualify for Senior Grocery you must be 60 years of age or older and at or below 130% of the federal poverty level. Please see the chart below
- If you are over the income limit, you can still qualify by being enrolled in SNAP or Medicaid.
- You will be asked to fill out an application and provide supporting documentation.

The food for Senior Grocery comes to us through a federal program known as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as well as grants from the Grainger Foundation and the Chambers Family Foundation.

Contact our Senior Grocery Program Coordinator, Carly Petersen at (541) 343-2822 ext. 315.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is more than just a meal! Friendly volunteers deliver a nourishing, freshly prepared noontime meal that

is nutritionally balanced to provide one-third of a senior's recommended daily nutrients. Volunteers have time for a brief chat and a safety check. Seniors who live alone feel more secure knowing that someone is checking on them regularly. Frozen meals are available for days we do not deliver or if requested. Where is Meals on Wheels available? Meals on Wheels is available in all parts of Lane County and will be delivered by either Senior & Disabled Services or FOOD for Lane County, depending on where you live.

Am I eligible? Meals on Wheels is available to people over the age of 60 and their spouses who cannot get out much due to illness or advanced age and who are not eating properly, regardless of their income.

- Each caller will be interviewed as soon as possible to determine eligibility and an appointment will be made for a home visit. Subsidized meals are available as funding permits. Persons under age 60 may be



- eligible under the following circumstances:
- Resident in a housing facility where a meal is served (Riverview Terrace in Cottage Grove, Cresview Villa in Creswell, Olive Plaza and Jacobs Lane in Eugene)
 - Disabled dependent child living in a non-institutional household with a person over age 60
 - Their Case Manager has authorized meals as part of their Medicaid in-home care service
 - They are willing to pay the full cost of the meal (\$8 each). Cost
 - Meals are available to eligible people on a donation basis. There is no set charge for the meal.
 - The suggested donation is \$3 per meal, but every eligible person is served regardless of the

amount they give. FOOD for Lane County administers the Meals on Wheels program in the Eugene area, in partnership with Lane Council of Government Senior & Disability Services. Request Meals on Wheels in the Eugene area: (541) 607-5065 Outside Eugene: (541) 682-3353, 800-441-4038, or TTY (541) 682-4567

Help us serve vets

by Katie
Courtesy of Food for Lane County

Rob is a gentle guy, with a big heart and an easy smile. In 2003, his Army National Guard infantry unit got the call to go to war. Rob spent 14 months in Kuwait and Iraq. When he got back to the states, he was changed — angry, volatile and injured.

His wife saw the change in his personality and urged him to seek treatment. He received counseling for PTSD and medical attention for a traumatic brain injury at the Roseburg VA.

Rob is grateful for the help he received, but a disability rating left him feeling useless.

"I kind of shut myself away. I didn't feel like I mattered to society anymore."

That turned around two years ago when Rob began volunteering at Daily Bread in Springfield, one of 31 emergency food pantries in the FOOD for Lane County network.

"I just kind of fell in love with it. Being at the pantry I felt like I could be around people and function properly. Big word there — function. It boosted my self esteem."

"Many of the people we serve have some form of disability. I see other vets there. I can relate to them. I see that I'm not alone. It's all worth it when that one person comes through who's really hurting and they give you a hug saying 'you helped me so much.' The look of relief and hope I

see on people's faces when they get to feed their families for at least another week — sometimes it brings me to tears. It's a wonderful thing, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Rob's family is on a fixed income, so they get a food box. Did you know that more people in Lane County are working but still need help? We surveyed pantry users and found that

- 44% of households report some kind of income
- 80% say they are able to meet their monthly food needs with the help of a pantry
- 39% of households have watered down food or drink to make them last longer

82% say they did not have enough money to buy food in the past 12 months Remember our veterans this November, especially those facing hunger and hardship. 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.



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