

Oregon Food Bank launches statewide Policy Leadership Council

Community members who have experienced hunger and its root causes to lead public policy and grassroots advocacy efforts

PORTLAND, Ore — Oregon Food Bank (OFB) today announced the launch of its statewide Policy Leadership Council, a new governing body that places public policy and grassroots advocacy decisions in the hands of community members.

The council is made up entirely of community leaders who also have lived experience of food insecurity, systemic racism, gender oppression and other root causes of hunger. Collectively, their leadership advances Oregon Food Bank's 10-year vision and belief that the strongest solutions to food insecurity come from community expertise.

Representing urban, rural and suburban communities from Astoria to Umatilla, Eugene to Grande Ronde, the 15-member statewide body brings an incredible depth of local leadership and experience to the food bank's mission to end hunger and its root causes.

The council includes membership of a Cottage Grove resident as well.

Together, the Council will set Oregon Food Bank's grassroots advocacy agenda by identifying and addressing the policies and systems that drive hunger and poverty in our communities.

"Enacting a Policy Leadership Council that's not only Black, Indigenous and other people of color — but people from all walks of life — that have experienced some sort of oppression is important," shared Yaneli Hernandez-Tapia, a Salem-based member of the council. "It brings our unique lenses into enacting policy changes that have an impact at the statewide or local levels."

In the coming months, the Policy Leadership Council will work to:

- Identify the most significant root causes of hunger in communities that disproportionately experience food insecurity

- Develop a roadmap to guide Oregon Food Bank efforts to change policies and systems that drive hunger

- Set Oregon Food Bank positions on key legislation and ballot measures that align with this systems-change platform

Drawing on lived experience and expertise, the Policy Leadership Council aims to address inequities in our political and social systems that drive hunger.

"The system isn't made for us; it's made to exploit us as People of Color. How do we engage in the system, but also address the inequity in the system?" asked Andrea Gonzalez, a council member from Astoria. "It's important to assess what causes the metaphorical fires for families and think bigger-scale — like policy change — in order to meet the needs of the community, especially those who have been marginalized for so long."

Though a number of food banks include community input in decision-making processes, Oregon Food Bank is among the first in the nation to ensure community members are in the lead on public policy and advocacy decisions.

The food bank's Board of Directors embraced creation of the Policy Leadership Council as a critical step in advancing a shared commitment to equity and racial justice. "This is an incredible moment for Oregon Food Bank and the broader movement to end hunger and its root causes," said Susannah Morgan, Oregon Food Bank CEO. "Together with our Board, the Policy Leadership Council will build the grassroots power we need to achieve our vision for resilient communities that never go hungry."

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tion airports in Oregon." As well as being an air traffic link, the 102-acre airport offers access to skydiving, flight instruction, aircraft maintenance, Chapter 31 meetings of the

Experimental Aircraft Association, aerobatic rides/lessons and a flight simulator.

Two courtesy cars are available for air travelers to take into Creswell.

"Small community airports like Hobby Field in Creswell play a key role in the quality of life in rural communities, creating jobs and economic activity by providing recreation opportunities like skydiving as well as supporting flight instruction and aircraft maintenance," Wyden said.

"I'm glad this general aviation airport in Lane County has earned this investment to modernize its infrastructure, and I'll keep working to provide similar resources for airports large and small throughout Oregon."

The nearly \$3.3 million supplemental discretionary grant from the Federal Aviation Administration is slotted for allocation as follows: \$1.96 million for runway reconstruction; \$1.28 million for runway lighting reconstruction; and \$55,556 for reconstruction

of airfield guidance signs. "Industries and businesses that serve rural communities need air access to create jobs and economic development opportunities," Merkley said. "I am pleased that Hobby Field Airport will receive federal resources to improve the safety of their runways and ensure local businesses have that critical air service, and I will keep fighting for investments that benefit small airports like Creswell and other local economies across the state of Oregon."

Worship Directory



<p>COTTAGE GROVE: 6th & Gibbs Church of Christ 195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822 10:00am Christian Education: Pre-K through 5th Tim Baker, Senior Minister www.6thandgibbs.com</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 3rd and Adams St 541-942-4479 Rev.: Karen Hill Worship: 10:00am Sunday School: 10:00am fpcgrove.com</p>	<p>St. Andrews Episcopal Church 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050 Rev. Lawrence Crumb "Scripture, Tradition, Reason" Worship: Sunday 10:30am All Welcome</p>
<p>Calvary Baptist Church 77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290 Pastor: Riley Hendricks Sunday School: 9:45am Worship: 11:00am The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm</p>	<p>Hope Fellowship United Pentecostal Church 100 S. Gateway Blvd. 541-942-2061 Pastor: Dave Bragg Worship: 11:00am Sunday Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday www.hopefellowshippupc.com</p>	<p>Seventh-day Adventist Church 820 South 10th Street 541-942-5213 Pastor: James D. Boram Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00</p>
<p>Church of Christ 420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565 Sunday Service: 10:30am</p>	<p>Living Faith Assembly 467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612 Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome) Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)</p>	<p>Trinity Lutheran Church 6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373 Pastor: James L. Markus Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups tlccg.com</p>
<p>Cottage Grove Bible Church 1200 East Quincy Avenue 541-942-4771 Pastor: Bob Singer Worship 11am Sunday School: 9:45am AWANA age 3-8th Grade, Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm www.cgbible.org</p>	<p>Non-Denominational Church of Christ 1041 Pennoyer Ave 541-942-8928 Preacher: Tony Martin Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm www.pennoyeravcoc.com</p>	<p>United Methodist Church 334 Washington 541-942-3033 Worship 10am umcgrove.org</p>
<p>Cottage Grove Faith Center 33761 Row River Rd. 541-942-4851 Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueff www.cg4.tv Full Children's Ministry available Services: 9:00am & 10:45am</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches 1025 N. 19th St. 541-942-3420 Father John J. Boyle Holy Mass: Saturday Vigil - 5:30 pm Sunday - 10:30 am For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM Saturdays or by appointment St. Philip Benizi, Creswell 552 Holbrook Lane Sunday 8 am</p>	<p>"VICTORY" Country Church 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913 Pastor: Barbara Dockery Worship Service: 10:00am Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"</p>
<p>Delight Valley Church of Christ 33087 Saginaw Rd. East 541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend Two Services: 9am - Classic in the Chapel 10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium</p>	<p>CRESWELL: Creswell Presbyterian Church 75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419 Rev. Seth Wheeler Adult Sunday School 9:15am Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am website www.creswellpres.org</p>	
<p>First Baptist Church 301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242 Pastor: David Chhangle Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Youth Wednesday 6:30pm cgfirstbaptist.com</p>	<p>Worship With Us</p>	

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