



# OREGON FOOD BANK NETWORK'S 10 HUNGER FACTS

**OREGON**  
**FOOD BANK**  
**NETWORK**

## Hunger Fact #1

- Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 11 Oregonians were food insecure. We had made real progress together in the fight to end hunger following the Great Recession. Today, 1 in 6 of our neighbors face hunger — a dramatic increase driven by the public health and economic fallout of COVID-19.

## Hunger Fact #2

- Fast-moving fires in September forced thousands of our neighbors to leave their homes, and the impacts will be felt through the year. As part of the disaster response network in our region, Oregon Food Bank provides emergency support — including water, food and other critical supplies — during times of crisis.

## Hunger Fact #3

- Hunger is on the rise. The Oregon Department of Human Services reports that 120,000 more people needed SNAP food assistance (sometimes called food stamps) in June when compared to February.

## Hunger Fact #4

- Oregon Food Bank works with partners to operate **41 school pantries** and **33 free food markets**. These food sites offer fresh produce and a small selection of pantry staples, such as chicken stock, rice and oil to low-income individuals and families. They are shopping style markets that allow clients to select the food they need and food items that better match their cultural and dietary needs.

## Hunger Fact #5

- Ending hunger in Oregon and SW Washington will require the efforts of each and every one of us. For every \$10 dollars you donate, the Oregon Food Bank Network can support our community with as many as 30 meals.

## Hunger Fact #6

- Oregon Food Bank organizes communities to implement long-lasting, systemic change. With countless Oregonians waiting for critical financial assistance in the pandemic's wake, advocacy makes a difference. In August, **the Oregon State Emergency Board earmarked more than \$200 million in immediate relief for hard-hit communities** — including \$62 million slated for the Oregon Cares Fund; \$35 million for emergency unemployment relief checks; and over \$3.5 million for emergency repairs to restore water service in Warm Springs.

## Hunger Fact #7

- Hunger affects health: almost half of respondent households have at least one person with high blood pressure, and almost one third have someone in the home with diabetes. We partner

with 350 health care systems across the network to screen hundreds of thousands of Oregonians for food insecurity.

### Hunger Fact #8

- Your donation stays local. Funds raised during this campaign will remain in the community where they were collected. The Oregon Food Bank Network distributes food to over 21 Regional Banks and 1,400 partner agency programs in Oregon and Clark County, Washington. ***Your donation stays in the community where it is collected.***

### Hunger Fact #9

- The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the deep inequities Black Oregonians have experienced for generations, **with Black households experiencing a 70% increase in food insecurity since March.** That's why the work of partners like Mudbone Grown is so critical. As a Black-owned farm enterprise, Mudbone Grown promotes inter-generational community-based farming that fosters sustainable environmental, social, cultural and economic impact. Their important work enhances food security, reduces energy use, and improves health and well-being locally.

### Hunger Fact #10

- Hunger is not inevitable – it is a choice. Before the pandemic, 860,000 people accessed food assistance across the Oregon Food Bank Network every year – and we know that “normal” wasn't working for our most vulnerable neighbors. Supporting the Oregon Food Bank Network helps provide culturally-relevant, healthy food to our communities and ushers in systems change that will ensure hunger is not a symptom of COVID-19. ***Together, we can create resilient communities that never go hungry.***