

Note: The action numbers following each Accomplishment and Next Step refers to Actions in the full Act to End Hunger report.

Community Food Security

Community food security means that all people, at all times, have access to safe, nutritious, affordable, adequate, and culturally appropriate food from non-emergency sources. It also means that food is produced, processed and distributed in ways that honor and protect the environment and the workers who produce it. Community food security is a regionally based food system that combats hunger and improves nutrition by building strong and resilient food systems through partnerships across many disciplines.

Goal: Develop and support a sustainable regional food system through community-based solutions, with statewide coordination.

Accomplishments:

- In October of 2004, Governor Kulongoski announced that he would create a State Food Policy Council to provide statewide leadership on community food security issues once staff funding was secured. A committee of diverse partners has met to build the case for funding and to identify potential funding sources (Action#16).
- New local food policy councils have been started in Lane, Benton, Marion, Polk and Clatsop Counties (Action # 17).
- Oregon Food Bank and Oregon State Extension have created a database of local and regional community food resources in Oregon: foodfororegon@oregonstate.edu (Action #18).

Next Step:

- **Secure funding and incorporate the State Food Policy Council into state statute. The State Food Policy Council will assess statewide needs, propose solutions and coordinate with local food policy councils (Action #16).**

Goal: Support local farmers and improve the nutrition of Oregonians.

Accomplishments:

- The Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger has targeted the expansion of Electronic Benefit Transfer technology for Farmers' Markets so that small farmers can accept food stamps. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is providing matching dollars. Grants will be made in the spring of 2006 (Action #19).
- Funding for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Farmers' Market voucher program was increased by \$49,000 but later the budget decision reduced the appropriation by the same amount (Action # 21).

Next Step:

- **Increase funding for the WIC and the Seniors Farmers' Market Voucher Programs (Action #21).**
- **Advocate for expansion of the federal Small Farms/School Meals Initiative and bring the USDA Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program to Oregon to help reduce children's reliance on unhealthy food (Action #24).**