

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

Federal Food Programs

Federal Food Programs are an intermediate response to hunger, not a long term solution. However, child nutrition programs and work support programs such as food stamps are vital to the stability of thousands of working poor families in Oregon. They provide additional resources to maximize low-income budgets and offer a valuable source of nutrition. In addition to reducing hunger and preventing problems caused by serious under-nutrition, federal food programs return tax dollars to our communities. The food program benefits used by low-income families helps support local grocers and their suppliers and stimulate local economies.

Goal: Increase participation in underutilized federal food programs.

Accomplishments:

- The Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force has raised over \$300,000 in the past two years for outreach on underutilized federal food programs. The State Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger has included both Food Stamps and Summer Food Program outreach to 4 targeted counties in its strategic plan (Action #25).
- Oregon was granted 455 additional slots to expand the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to Seniors in Medford and Pendleton (Action #27).
- The Summer Food Bill passed the 2005 State Legislature and now provides an additional 5 cents for every summer lunch served to help offset costs for sponsoring organizations not reimbursed by federal child nutrition programs (Action #29).

Next Step:

- **Conduct outreach in targeted counties to increase the number of families participating in food stamps and child nutrition programs to improve nutrition for poor children. Raise funds for outreach in underserved areas (Action #25).**

Goal: Improve and invest in programs at the federal level.

Accomplishments:

- Oregon was added to the “Lugar Pilot” lessening Summer Food Program paperwork requirements and increasing reimbursement rates for program sponsors. Congresswoman Darlene Hooley introduced a bill to increase the number of neighborhoods eligible to offer Summer Food Programs (Action #33).

Next Step:

- **Pass Congresswoman Hooley’s bill to increase access to the Summer Food Program (Action #33).**
- **Raise the minimum Food Stamp benefit to \$25 and index it for inflation (Action #34).**