



Impacts of the 2021 Trillium-Lane County Public Health Community Food Security Funds

Background

The most recent food security data for Lane County—which predate the COVID-19 pandemic—indicate that families in Lane County receive SNAP benefits at a higher rate than Oregon and the US. Lane County also has higher enrollment in free/reduced school lunch programs. Reports estimate that since the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn, food insecurity in the US has doubled overall, and tripled among households with children.

Right: A glimpse into the Rural Organizing Project in Cottage Grove, one of the projects supported by the Food-Security Fund via FFLC



Supporting the community



Cornerstone established a community garden space on the second story of a downtown housing complex

In response to this crisis, the Community Advisory Council (CAC) Prevention Workgroup, which oversees Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) contributions to primary prevention and health promotion programs, decided to take action. The workgroup made the decision to allocate CCO 1.0 Prevention funds contributed by Trillium Community Health Plan to address the growing food insecurity crisis that had resulted from increased financial challenges across the community since the onset of COVID-19.

In early 2021, the Prevention section of Lane County Public Health (who convenes the CAC Prevention Workgroup) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for agencies to apply for funding that would increase long-term capacity and build community partnerships to better address food insecurity. This is a snapshot of the grantees' successes and the pronounced impact of these partnerships.

Recipients of the 2021 Food Security Funds:

- The Arc of Lane County – \$50,000
- Community-Supported Shelters – \$30,000
- Cornerstone Community Housing – \$25,000
- FOOD For Lane County (“FFLC”) – \$25,000
- Willamette Farm & Food Coalition - \$130,000*

*WFFC's Double Up Food Bucks expansion project is a 3-year contract - see page 4

Improvements to Infrastructure

- Cornerstone was able to remodel a community space to include a food pantry that will be accessible during evening and weekend hours.
- Several projects were able to make large purchases to improve capacity to serve their clients, such as a freezer (Cornerstone), and a van to make food deliveries and transport clients to other community services (Community-Supported Shelters).
- Cornerstone installed an entirely new garden space at West Town on 8th, a 102-unit affordable housing site.
- FFLC supported small community pantries in creating storage space to accommodate more home deliveries.
- The Arc developed the Hunger Relief Network (getfoodlane.org), which is a one-stop shop where people can request food assistance, find a local pantry, volunteer or even donate goods to the pantry.



A van was purchased by Community Supported Shelters to support basic needs



Improved storage at the Mapleton Food Share, made possible by Food Security Fund via FFLC

Fostering Community Partnerships

The 2021 Food Security Fund helped bolster existing collaboration, and build new partnerships. FOOD For Lane County and The Arc of Lane County demonstrate strong community collaboration.

FOOD For Lane County

FFLC launched an RFP process to support agencies serving rural communities, Latinx and immigrant households, seniors, and refugees. They funded the following partners:

- Head Start of Lane County
- Catholic Community Services
- Rural Organizing Project
- Junction City Local Aid
- Mapleton Food Share

The Arc of Lane County

The Arc has been able to strengthen and expand their partnerships with 4J Natives Program, Escudo, Palmo Center, Burrito Brigade, and United Way.

The Hunger Relief Network, including getfoodlane.org, is a collaboration between The Arc, Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC), and FOOD For Lane County.



January 2022 screenshot of GetFoodLane.org, one component of the Hunger Relief Network. The website features a directory of food security services.

Strengthening Volunteer Networks

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- Cornerstone tracked 523 total volunteer hours, an increase from 2020 (though still not back to the totals they tracked prior to 2019).
- The Arc had 12 volunteers prior to this funding and expanding their services. They now have 97 volunteers who work six days a week.
- FFLC will be supporting a large network of 34 food pantries to increase their capacity to distribute food by reimbursing volunteers for the cost of fuel.



Operations underway at Catholic Community Services, one of the five recipients of FFLC's partner funds

Assessing Needs & Opportunities

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- Community-Supported Shelters conducted a survey assessing client needs. This provided them with information about non-perishables being more feasible and that most of their clients do not feel skilled at cooking.
- The Arc has continued to grow their partnership with United Way and the Ride United Program. Ride United provides free subscriptions for food box delivery through DoorDash. The Arc is primarily geared towards individuals with disabilities or seniors who do not have transportation or other barriers to accessing their local pantry.
- FFLC is working with The Arc to map out their home delivery tracking on a GIS Data Collection/Analysis tool that FFLC will build with the University of Oregon Institute for Policy Research & Engagement in 2022. Their hope is that with Arc home delivery data, they can pinpoint hot spots of need to send FFLC's Mobile Pantry, or connect additional partners to the Ride United program.



A glimpse at Junction City Local Aid, another agency supported by the Food Security Fund via FFLC!

For More Information

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In response to the continued impacts of COVID-19, a second round of Community Food Security Funds will be issued in 2022. For more information about the projects, the CCO-Public Health partnership or the Prevention Workgroup, please contact Jacqueline.MORENO@lanecountyor.gov or Teresa.COPPOLA@lanecountyor.gov.



Double-Up Food Bucks Expansion

About Double Up Food Bucks

In addition to issuing the community Food Security Funds to build long-term capacity, the CAC Prevention Workgroup members also recognized the need and urgency to get Lane County residents connected to food resources as soon as possible. Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb, or Double Up) is a program that supports low income families by increasing their purchasing power for fresh fruits and vegetables.

By matching SNAP benefits, DUFb lowers the price of local foods to an equitable amount for families receiving nutrition assistance. Willamette Farm & Food Coalition (WFFC) applied to administer the DUFb expansion and was issued a 3-year contract for \$130,000 through the Community Food Security Fund.



With the 2021 Food Secure Community Fund, Willamette Farm & Food Coalition was able to:

- Offer DUFb at small, rural farm stands, which are typically not included in the DUFb program
- Expand the market match cap from \$10 to \$20 at smaller and rural markets in Lane County
- Increase outreach and awareness of the DUFb program, including targeted outreach to Spanish-speaking communities via radio advertisements

- ## Participating Markets & Farms
- ### Participating Farm Stands
- Fox Springs Farm Stand (Fox Hollow)
 - A&M Family Farms (Pleasant Hill)
 - Organic Redneck Growers (Walterville)
- ### Participating Farmers Markets
- Florence Farmers Market
 - Lane County Farmers Market (Tuesdays)
 - South Valley Farmers Market
 - Veneta Downtown Farmers Market
 - Whiteaker Community Market

“It has been a huge blessing to our family this year to receive SNAP and DUFb benefits for the first time. We were trying to get together enough change to afford peanut butter for our child when we applied. We’ve been able to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables from the best local growers have to offer. Mushrooms that were unavailable to us before and so many ears of corn and fresh tomatoes. Our protein and b & c vitamin intake is much improved after last year. Thank you for providing us with the option to eat local, fresh veg!” ~Double Up customer

DUFB at a Glance

The participating farmers markets collected surveys from customers. Here's what we learned:

- 60% said COVID-19 has made it hard to make ends meet in their household
- 73% had at least one child in the household
- 1 in 3 used the DUFB for the first time during the 2021 market season
- 94% report the DUFB expansion made it easier to get fresh fruits and vegetables
- 95% said the amount of fruits and vegetables they purchased increased "some" or "greatly"
- 90% visited a farmers market more frequently
- 51% say as a result of DUFB, their health has "improved greatly" and 31% report "improved some"

Increasing match from \$10 to \$20: A successful pilot!

Quarterly data collected from markets shows that when offered the opportunity to match up to \$20 instead of \$10, many customers will choose to spend more of their SNAP benefits at the market, resulting in eating more fruits and vegetables.

Small and rural markets also benefited greatly from increased funding through this grant. All markets more than doubled the amount of DUFB dollars distributed from 2020 to 2021. WFFC reports that it would not have been possible for these low-resourced markets to support such a growth in the program without this additional funding.

Lane County has been a leader in piloting the DUFB match increase. Thanks to this grant, this idea has gained interest at the statewide level. With some additional funding, statewide partners at Farmers Market Fund began to offer many other markets across the state the ability to raise their match cap to \$20, modeled after Lane County. In 2022, Farmers Market Fund plans to offer a \$20 match to any market that has capacity to administer it!

Customer Comments

"This has been an amazing program for me to increase my intake of fresh, organic, local fruits and vegetables which has very positively impacted my health especially during the COVID-19 pandemic."

"With [Double Up] I can take my grandchildren to market and let them pick out fresh fruit as a treat. I can buy the veggies I want without it impacting the rest of my food budget needs. I rely heavily on [Double Up]."

"This is an AMAZING program. It really helped us to stretch our food budget, support local farmers, eat healthy foods and feel good."

DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS™ OREGON

DOUBLE YOUR SNAP DOLLARS

from May - October 2021
at a Farmers Market near you

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 GO** Go to your farmers market information tent
- 2 SWIPE** Swipe your EBT card for tokens to buy SNAP eligible foods
- 3 MATCH** We match up to \$10 a day with Double Up Food Bucks for fruits and vegetables
- 4 SHOP** Shop for fresh fruits and vegetables at the market!

See back for market locations

FARMERS MARKET FUND | Regence | NEW SEASONS MARKETS

www.DoubleUpOregon.org

For More Information

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