

IMPACT REPORT ON THE 2025/2026 FOOD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM PREPARED FOR THE OLSETH FAMILY FOUNDATION

Oregon Food Bank's Food Ambassador program was a success for fiscal year 2025-2026. Thank you for your generous support and partnership. This report shares more information about the cohort who most recently participated in the program. Keep reading to learn about 15 organizations who served thousands of households and families. Not only are they partnering with us to distribute nourishing food that feels like home, they are working to build on their internal capacity, leadership and infrastructure to be able to respond to increased need. We're grateful to partner with them and invest in their unique missions by providing grants for food distribution and capacity building.

2025 COHORT

Somali Oregon Service Center is a Somali led organization that serves a broad array of immigrants and refugees from across the African, Middle Eastern and Southwest Asian diaspora. Many social service programs are provided in areas focused on children's health, women's health and wellness, language access, English classes, job readiness and DHS liaison work. They were referred to Oregon Food Bank through the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) (DUFb) program.



They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$115,330. From July 2024-July 2026 they have served **1,197 households** and **6,351 individuals**. Keep learning: Check out this [blog post](#) and watch this [video](#) to keep learning about our partnership with the Somali Oregon Service Center. Pictured above: Claudia Al-Amin Learn more on [their website](#).

Rohingya Youth Association of Portland is a Rohingya led organization serving a broad array of immigrants and refugees from across the southeast asian diaspora. Services include energy efficiency programs, public health education, youth fitness programs, DHS liaison work. They were also referred to Oregon Food Bank through the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) (DUFb) program. They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$106,260. From January 2025-July 2026 they have served **672 households** and **1,768 individuals**. [Learn more on their website](#).

Risen Community Organization became an official partner agency of Oregon Food Bank in 2022, but they joined the 24/25 cohort of Food Ambassadors out of need for additional support. They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$96,761. From May 2023-April 2026 they have served **3,995 households** and **6,381 individuals**. Read more about leaders [Denis Nyongesa](#) (pictured to the right) and [Liban Satu](#) at Risen Community Organization on the OFB blog. Learn more on [their website](#).



Community Pulse Association reached out to the Food Systems Team in 2023 with a goal of starting a food distribution. They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$44,795. From July 2024-July 2026 they have served **2,656 households** and **7,376 individuals**. Read more about leader [Olga Cherevanteko](#) (pictured to the right) at Community Pulse Association on the OFB blog. Learn more on [their website](#).



Antfarm Youth Services was referred to by the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) (DUFB) program. They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$8,000. From August 2025-July 2026 they have served **1,308 households** and **5,341 individuals**. Keep reading about leader [Liliana Beltran Torres](#) (pictured to the right) at Nuevo Futuro at AntFarm on the OFB blog and [watch this video](#) about their food distribution in Estacada. Learn more on [their website](#).



Access Oregon applied for the Food Systems Ambassador Program in 23/24 but due to internal complexities the partner joined the 25/26 cohort. They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$26,200. Read more about leader [Eman Abbas](#) (pictured to the right) at Access Oregon on the OFB blog. Learn more on [their website](#).



Pacific Climate Warriors was a 23/24 Food Ambassador who partnered with OFB Learning Gardens to grow culturally specific crops for their client base. They ran food distributions in partnership with PCC Sylvania Pantry for 2 years. Year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$10,000. Watch this video to hear from [Heifara Wheeler](#) of Pacific Climate Warriors.

NW Association of Sierra Leone is currently a Garden Program Partner, partnering with OFB in food production dedicated to their community distributions, serving **20-25 households** each distribution.

2026 COHORT

Community Empowerment Foundation is an Afghan social service organization, providing resettlement support. They use the Somali Oregon Service Center/Rohingya Youth Association of Portland office as they don't have a physical location, this has been a benefit for Operations as we can streamline distribution logistics. They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$48,066. From June-August 2026 they have served **75 households** and **387 individuals**. Learn more about them on [their website](#).

Oregon Rohingya Myanmar Muslim Society serves a Rohingya diaspora client base. They have a partnership with the Multnomah County Health Department and a partnership with the Oregon Department of Human Services on navigation and agricultural food production. They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$36,000. From March-July 2026 they have served **260 households** and **1,100 individuals**. Learn more on [their website](#).

Comunidad De Fe is an Ontario based organization that runs a once monthly food distribution for predominantly spanish speaking families. They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$50,000. Learn more about [Comunidad De Fe here](#) on the OFB Blog



Eastside Halal - Islamic Social Services of Oregon State (ISOS) is the sponsor organization for the Eastside Halal Monthly Food Distribution in East Multnomah County (formerly ACCESS Oregon) and they host their own distributions in Washington County. They are actively distributing food and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$70,200. From July 2025-July 2026 they served **733 households** and **3,369 individuals**. Learn more on [their website](#).

DeRose Community Bridge currently runs a food distribution, meal site and social service location in the Gateway area. They are open to the public, with a high concentration of immigrant and houseless clients. Food distributions are in the planning phase and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$41,000. Learn more from [Dr. Roseline Yunusa Vakkai](#) (pictured to the right) of DeRose Community Bridge on the OFB Blog.



On the Move Ministries with Jesus Outreach runs a food distribution program serving African American communities, wild fire impacted communities, and open-to-the-public food distribution in the Gateway neighborhood. They partner with a Somali led organization in office space rental and youth and family engagement activities. Food distributions are in the planning phase and year to date Oregon Food Bank has invested \$45,000. Learn more about [Johnny Bradford](#) (pictured to the right) of On the Move Ministries on the OFB Blog.



Werq Together serves gender diverse communities across the state with transportation and migration support. They host a food distribution site in SE Portland and recently moved locations. Food distributions are in the planning phase. Learn more about them on [their website](#).



WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE FOOD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

After 10 years of evolution, what started as the Seed to Supper Ambassador Program and most recently the Food System Ambassador Program, has evolved into two separate programs: the Partner Agency Pathway Program* and the **Community Food Justice Program**.

There are three main programmatic changes that led to the creation of the new Community Food Justice Program:

First, the program will expand from working with individual community leaders to also **working with groups**. This change comes from the FEAST model, which has focused on supporting groups of food justice leaders in food system organizing since 2009. Oregon Food Bank sunset the FEAST Support Fund grant in 2026, but continues to support communities with FEAST events through consultation and facilitation. You can learn more about FEAST [here](#).

The second shift will see the program expand from a Portland Metro Area focus to a **statewide focus** to better support rural movement building and continue FEAST's focus on serving rural communities.

The third and final shift will focus on supporting the **sustainability** of participants' food access projects. The 2024 Program Evaluation showed that upon completion of the program, many participants continued to need financial and staff support from the Oregon Food Bank to maintain their projects. In order to address this drop off in support, the program will focus on building projects that can be sustained by the partner after 2-3 years in the program. This may include non profit coaching, fundraising capacity building, networking, skill sharing and more. As an example, in the past we saw many projects focus on one-time food distribution. This impact was immediately felt by the community, but following the end of the grant program, there was a gap in services. Current projects think strategically about impact reporting, asset mapping and networking to support program work through the phase out of the grant program.

THANK YOU!

