



2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

APPROVE SUMMER-EBT TO ADDRESS CHILD HUNGER DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

Consistent access to food is central to children's ability to learn and grow, yet child hunger spikes during summer months. Summer EBT is a new, federally-funded program that will provide \$40/month per summer month to almost 300,000 eligible children in Oregon.

This program will bring \$35 million in food assistance a year to Oregon's kids, but state legislators need to act quickly to approve funding to cover just half of the annual administrative costs. With a modest initial investment, Oregon legislators have the opportunity to unlock federal funding and alleviate the summer hunger gap for Oregon's kids.

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STUDENT EMERGENCY NEEDS PACKAGE - HB 4162

College and university students in Oregon are reporting increasing rates of food insecurity, housing instability and challenges affording and accessing textbooks, transportation, childcare, and other basic needs. The 2024 Student Emergency Needs Package is a bipartisan, student-centered effort to support Oregon's Basic Needs Navigators and Textbook Affordability Program with \$6 million dollars in one-time, emergency funding.

HB 4162 will ensure that the Benefits Navigators on college campuses will have resources to support the students that walk through the doors and prevent textbook affordability from becoming a financial crisis for students.

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ENSURE ACCESS TO SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Students can't learn when they're hungry, or when they're worried about where their next meal will come from. Urgent action is required to make sure that schools have access to funds that are already set aside to provide school meals for Oregon's kids.

The state has enough funding to allow hundreds of more schools to provide school meals for all students. However, state rules must be updated to align with federal rules to release this money and allow schools to provide universal meals. This rule change needs to be accomplished quickly, either through the ODE agency rule change, or legislative action.

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WE ARE SUPPORTING:

- Adequately fund Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)
- Protections against homelessness and rent assistance for families
- Piloting the use of SNAP for hot meals in restaurants
- Ensuring federal matching for the Double Up Food Bucks program funding
- Emergency stabilization of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Preventing the recriminalization of personal drug possession (Uphold Measure 110)

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"All persons have the right to be free from hunger" (ORS 458.530)