

## Hunger Relief Adopted Strategies, 2014- 2019

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### Goal for Program Area

Expand access to healthy, nutritious food for hungry children.

### Introduction and Background

Childhood hunger is a problem that affects a substantial portion of children living in Multnomah County. In 2011, 24.2% of children in Multnomah County were “food insecure” which indicates disrupted eating patterns or reduced consumption exemplified by skipped meals and smaller portions. Close to half of children aged 0-4 in Multnomah County are receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (known as WIC). More than one third of children aged 0-17 in Multnomah County received benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). Fifty-six percent of the students attending school in Portland school districts were eligible for the school lunch program with an average of 38,191 children served on a school day in 2011/12. Finally, the Oregon Food Bank reported that 34% of the clients eating from emergency food supplied by the Oregon Food Bank network were children.<sup>i</sup>

In addition, **public input in this program area** indicated the following priorities<sup>ii</sup>:

- Increase access to and utilization of existing hunger relief programs that provide food for children during the school day and outside-of-school times through a variety of methods.
- Increase summer food access by expanding summer feeding sites.
- Increase number of school food pantries, especially at SUN Community schools, and especially in East Portland.
- Invest in programs providing nutrition and cooking education.
- Assure that services are focused on low income families and children, and are offered in high poverty schools and parts of Portland (East and North Portland).

The Allocation Committee adopted the following strategies and priorities for the Hunger Relief program area.

<b>Strategy 1. Increase Access/Utilization of Existing Hunger Relief Programs</b>	
Services	Use a variety of methods (e.g. outreach, increased staffing, increased volunteer coordination) designed to increase access to and use of existing hunger relief programs including WIC, SNAP, federal programs that support school meals and snacks, and summer meals, and school-based emergency food programs. Proposals that add or include nutrition education as a program component are encouraged.
Eligible Population	Children aged 0-18 and their caregivers.
Definitions	<b>WIC:</b> Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. <b>SNAP:</b> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

<b>Strategy 2. School-Based Food Pantries</b>	
Services	Increase the number of school-based food pantries that provide staple food items and fresh foods. Proposals that add or include nutrition education as a component to hunger relief are encouraged.
Eligible Population	Children aged 0-18 and their caregivers.
Priorities	SUN Community School sites located in North and East Portland that do not currently offer food pantries.

<b>Strategy 3. Increase Access to Food During Summer and Out-of-School Time</b>	
Services	Increase the number of sites providing food to children during the weeks of summer vacation, or during other school breaks. Proposals that add or include nutrition education as a program component are encouraged.
Eligible Population	Children aged 0-18 and their caregivers.
Priorities	High poverty areas of the city that currently lack summer meal sites.

<b>Strategy 4. Alternative Approaches</b>	
Services	Employ alternative strategies for hunger relief, and/or include strategies to increase the nutritional value of food provided in existing programs.
Eligible Population	Children aged 0-18 and their caregivers.

<sup>i</sup> See Local Data Report, page 9 and corresponding citations to data sources, [portlandchildrenslevy.org](http://portlandchildrenslevy.org).

<sup>ii</sup> See full Community Input Report, [portlandchildrenslevy.org](http://portlandchildrenslevy.org).