

# OREGON HUNGER TASK FORCE

## Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon

The Oregon Hunger Task Force believes that food, shelter, and healthcare are basic human rights. BIPOC communities continue to do without. The Oregon Hunger Task Force's ability to support bills that promote racial and economic justice for Oregonians fulfills the mission of the task force and its declaration that "All persons have the right to be free from hunger."

The Oregon Hunger Task Force is proud to support the following legislation during the 2022 Oregon Legislative Short Session:

Expanding Tax Filing Assistance - [HB 4117](#): The Bill enables culturally specific and responsive service organizations to help low-income clients become aware of benefits, navigate the system, and file returns. With \$4 million in short session legislative funding to the Oregon Department of Human Services Self Sufficiency Program, the Bill would help eligible Oregonians capture up to \$73 million in available federal benefits.

Implementation of Restaurant Meals Program in Oregon - [HB 4088](#): The Restaurant Meals Program is a federal program that allows elderly, disabled and houseless SNAP recipients and their spouse to use their EBT card to purchase prepared meals from participating restaurants. Access to hot meals is beneficial to both your physical and mental health and is something all people deserve. Six states have enrolled in the Restaurant Meals Program, and Illinois and New York have passed laws directing their social service agencies to apply for the program.

Farmworker Overtime: For too long farmworkers have been excluded from receiving overtime pay. This exclusion has roots in the racist 1938 Federal Labor Standards Act. This exclusion is part of the shameful legacy of racism as legislators from the South explicitly point out the "racial question" involved in overtime wages to farmworkers. This exclusion was wrong in 1938 and it's wrong now. Farmworkers deserve to be paid for their hard work just like everyone else. Through this multi-year phased-in plan, farmworkers will finally receive the pay they deserve.

Transforming Justice - [SB 1510](#): Many Oregonians, especially Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color, do not feel safe in our neighborhoods, homes, and workplaces. Unnecessary interactions with law enforcement and lack of investment in culturally specific services increase tension and mistrust among our communities. The Transforming Justice bill will help create safety in our communities by changing how public safety stops are handled, and allowing our system to focus on true threats of violence and can create a public safety system where people experiencing houselessness, mental health crises, and other non-violent incidents are met with services and support, not punishment.

Racism is a Public Health Issue - [HB 4052](#): This bill is the opportunity to uproot and invest in strategies that as a state advances conditions that get us closer to the vision of equity where more lives are rooted in the conditions for living in wellness, stability, and dignity.

Universal Legal Representation - [SB 1543](#): Oregonians with a lawful right to be in the United States are routinely deported simply because they lack access to counsel. Unlike in criminal proceedings, there are no public defenders in immigration court. In a deportation proceeding, individuals who cannot afford or access an attorney will face a trained ICE attorney and immigration judge by themselves. The result is that people without representation are 5.5x more likely to get deported. Building off of a multi-year pilot, Universal Legal Representation would establish a permanent, community driven program to provide immigration legal services to those in need.