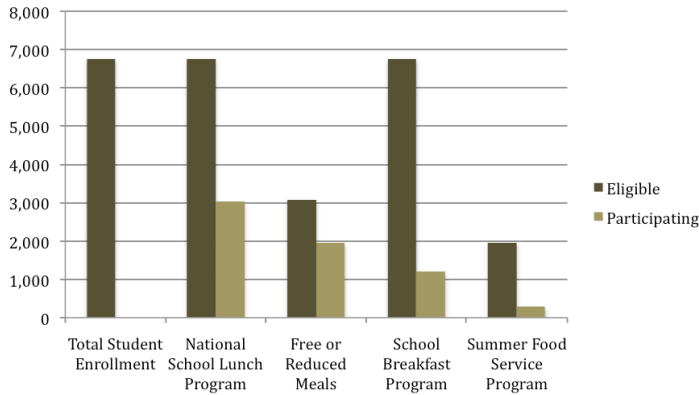


POLK COUNTY Oregon

- In these hard economic times, many more people are hungry, especially children and seniors.
- Federal food programs can help feed people and provide economic stimulus for local economies.
- Polk County could bring in millions more federal dollars by reaching more eligible people.

School Lunches, Breakfast, & Summer Meals



In 2008 ~

- **45.6% of all students** were eligible for free and reduced price meals in Polk County. Of those who ate lunch:
 - **44%** of them received breakfast.
 - **14%** ate meals through the Summer Food Program.

If all who were eligible for free or reduced price lunch were served, Polk County would have received an additional **\$505,201** in federal dollars a year and fed an additional **1,127 eligible low-income children**.

SNAP/ Food Stamps

In 2008 ~

- **8,041 people** received SNAP/food stamps per month in Polk County.
- **\$9 million federal dollars** were brought into the local economy.

If all eligible people were enrolled in SNAP, Polk County would have received an additional **\$1.5 million dollars each month** in federal money and **1,865 additional people** would have received help putting food on the table.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Support public policies that help low-income people meet their basic needs.
- Support efforts to reach more people through federal food assistance programs.
- Refer to the *Act to End Hunger* for more ideas to address hunger in your county.

For specific information visit
www.oregonhunger.org

Women, Infants & Children Program (WIC)

In 2008, WIC served **2,341 pregnant or breast-feeding women, infants and children** under five, representing 41% of all pregnant women (compared to 40% statewide average).

Emergency Food Assistance

In 2008, **14,711 food boxes** and **1 congregate meal site** provided emergency food to help families make ends meet.

Farm Direct Nutrition Program

Seniors and WIC families redeemed **\$16,392** in coupons to buy fresh produce in 2008, which supported local farmers.

Afterschool Meals & Snacks

During the 2007/08 school year, **0 suppers** were served in high need areas.

Polk County Demographic Information

Total Population: 68,235

◆ People in Poverty: 6,346 (9.3%)

◆ People living at or below 185% of Poverty: 20,606 (30.2%)

Children 0-18 years: 15,509

◆ Children in Poverty: 2,016 (13.0%)

BACKGROUND ON FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPL)

Monthly Income

Family Size	100% FPL	130% of FPL	185% of FPL
1	\$903	\$1,173	\$1,670
2	\$1,215	\$1,580	\$2,247
3	\$1,526	\$1,984	\$2,823
4	\$1,838	\$2,389	\$3,400
For each additional person add	+ \$312	+ \$406	+ \$577

Income Guidelines:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The SNAP program, formerly known as Food Stamps, is the largest federal nutrition assistance program. U.S. citizens and some groups of legal immigrants are eligible for assistance if they meet certain income and asset requirements.

- *Households in Oregon qualify for SNAP/food stamps at or below 185% FPL.*

Federal Child Nutrition Programs

Through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, schools provide students with nutritious meals to grow and learn. The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals and snacks to students when they are out of school. The At-Risk Meal and Snack Program provides suppers to children in after-school care and recreation programs.

- *Families qualify for free school meals at or below 130% FPL. Reduced price meals have incomes between 130% and 185% FPL.*
- *The Summer Food Service Program is open to all children under 18 years.*
- *At-Risk Meal and Snack Program meals may be served in neighborhoods where 50% or more of the students qualify for free or reduced price meals.*

Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)

WIC serves low-income mothers and pregnant women, and their children up to age five years. WIC provides vouchers for specific nutritious foods along with nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and health care referrals.

- *Pregnant and breastfeeding women, and families with children under five, qualify for the WIC program at or below 185% FPL.*

WIC/Seniors Farm Direct Nutrition Program

The Farm Direct Nutrition Program assists low-income seniors and families enrolled in the WIC program. It helps them access fresh fruits and vegetables during the growing season and supports local farmers and farmers' markets.

- *WIC participants qualify for Farm Direct at or below 185% FPL (with the exception of children 6 months and under).*
- *Seniors qualify when they receive SNAP/food stamps or Medicaid benefits, and have an income that does not exceed 115% FPL.*

About this Fact Sheet:

Information on this fact sheet shows the use of federally funded nutrition programs among Oregon counties, and the level of untapped federal resources resulting from underutilization.

This is a joint project between the Oregon Hunger Task Force, the Oregon Department of Education, the Women, Infants & Children's Program (WIC), and the Oregon Food Bank.



Published: June 2009

For more information and full methodology visit:

www.oregonhunger.org