

## Polk COUNTY Oregon

Federal nutrition programs help Oregonians put food on the table and provide revenue to local businesses and agriculture. Polk County can help improve food security, strengthen the local economy and bring in more federal dollars by promoting federal nutrition programs to all eligible people.

### End Hunger in Oregon:

**Learn** - read Oregon's plan to end hunger: Ending Hunger Before it Begins: *Oregon's Call to Action*.

**Connect** – tell more people about federal food assistance programs.

**Advocate** – lend your voice in support of public policies that increase economic stability.

[www.oregonhunger.org](http://www.oregonhunger.org)

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

In 2009 ~

- **9,475 people** received SNAP (food stamps) per month in Polk County.
- **\$13.2 million federal dollars** were brought into the local economy last year.

If all eligible people were enrolled in SNAP, the local economy would have received an additional **\$4 million federal dollars last year** and **5,487 additional people** would have received help putting food on the table.

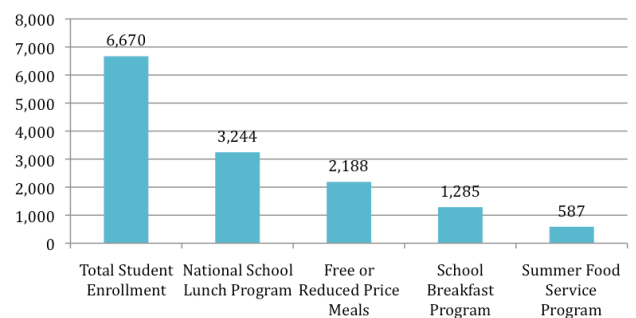
### Child Nutrition Programs

In 2009 ~

- **3,209 students (48.1%)** were eligible for free and reduced price meals in Polk County. Yet, only **2,188** received a lunch each day on average.
- **42%** of them received school breakfast, and
- **27%** ate meals through the Summer Food Program.

If all students who were eligible for free or reduced price lunch were served, the local economy would have received an additional **\$482,954** in federal dollars last year and fed an additional **1,021 eligible low-income children**.

2009 Average Daily Participation



### Women, Infants & Children Program (WIC)

In 2009, WIC served **2,334 pregnant or breast-feeding women, infants and children** under five, representing 44% of all pregnant women (compared to 38% statewide average).

### Afterschool Meals & Snacks

During the 2009/10 school year, **46,648 suppers** were served in high need areas that brought **\$134,014 federal dollars** into county school districts.

### Farm Direct Nutrition Program

Seniors and WIC families redeemed **\$18,223** in coupons to buy fresh produce from local farms in 2009.

### Emergency Food Assistance (TEFAP)

In 2009, **10,227 food boxes** and **1 congregate meal site** provided emergency food to help families make ends meet.

## Polk County Demographic Information

**Total Population: 76,468**

- ♦ People in Poverty: 8,182 (10.7%)
- ♦ People living at or below 185% of Poverty: 20,587

**Children 0-18 years: 16,614 (21.7%)**

- ♦ Children in Poverty: (12.4%) 2,055
- ♦ Children at or below 185% of Poverty: 4,998

# BACKGROUND ON FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The SNAP program, formerly known as food stamps, is the largest federal nutrition assistance program. U.S. citizens are eligible for assistance if they meet certain income requirements.

- *Most households in Oregon qualify for SNAP at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).*

## Federal Child Nutrition Programs

The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs provide students with nutritious meals to grow and learn. The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals and snacks to students during the summer. The After School Meal and Snack Program provides suppers to children in after-school enrolled enrichment programs.

- *Families qualify for free school meals at or below 130% FPL. Reduced price meals serve families with incomes between 130% and 185% FPL.*
- *The Summer Food Service Program and After School Meal and Snack Program are open to all children 18 years and under. Meals are served in neighborhoods where 50% or more of the students qualify for free or reduced price meals.*

## Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for 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 families enrolled in the WIC program and low-income seniors. It helps them access fresh fruits and vegetables during the growing season and supports local farmers and farmers' markets.

- *WIC families 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 135% FPL.*

## The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP supplements the diets of low-income people by providing emergency food at no cost through local services agencies and organizations.

## 2010 Federal Poverty Guidelines 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

## About this Fact Sheet:

Information on this document shows the use of federally funded nutrition programs in Oregon counties, and the federal dollars that go untapped when all who are eligible do not receive assistance.

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon coordinates this data project. Oregon Department of Education, The Oregon Women, Infants & Children's Program (WIC) and Oregon Food Bank provide information and data.



Published:  
November 2010

To download this document  
and methodology visit:

[www.oregonhunger.org](http://www.oregonhunger.org)