

Appropriations Request Form

Wednesday, 21 January 2009

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM

OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION

FISCAL YEAR 2010

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2009

PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.

1. Project Title: Oregon Food Bank West
2. Organization Name and address: Oregon Food Bank, 7900 NE 33rd Drive, Portland, OR
(Mailing address: P.O. Box 55370, Portland, OR 97238-5370)
3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number and email: Rachel Bristol, 503-419-4190, 503-282-0922, fax; rbristol@oregonfoodbank.org
4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization): 1870 NW 173rd Drive, Beaverton, OR
5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

Oregon Food Bank is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves as the hub of a statewide emergency food distribution network comprised of 20 Regional Food Banks and more than 900 local hunger-relief agencies throughout Oregon and Clark County, Wash. Oregon Food Bank collects food from farms, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, individuals and government sources. It then delivers that food to 16 independent, regional

food banks throughout Oregon and to four distribution centers directly operated by OFB, including the Washington County Services center, currently located in Hillsboro, Ore. Oregon Food Bank also works to eliminate the root causes of hunger through advocacy and public education.

6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)

Oregon Food Bank stands at the threshold of a new era in food banking, facing increasing demand just as many traditional supplies of food are decreasing. These twin forces are addressed through expanding OFB operations in Washington County to serve a growing need there as well as expanding service options for Northwest Oregon counties and food processing capacity to benefit the entire OFB Network. The need for the project is urgent given the worsening economic downturn, rapid growth in requests for emergency food statewide and surprisingly dramatic increases in Washington County, where unemployment and poverty populations are rising. Since 2004, emergency food box distribution has grown 20% in Washington County—twice the growth statewide in that period. It increased 13% last fiscal year and another 9% July-December of this fiscal year, compared with 2007-08.

Even prior to the current surge in demand, OFB determined the need to strategically improve its infrastructure to address systemic challenges of a changing food supply. Given continued food industry consolidations, new global markets, and natural disasters, donations from national food donors have dropped 3 million pounds per year each of the past three years. To backfill a portion of these losses, OFB launched new food recovery programs and radically increased its bulk food purchases.

Superimposed on organization-wide needs is OFB's need for a larger distribution center in Washington County. OFB chose not to renew its lease in Hillsboro beyond 2010 because the warehouse, in use since 1994, is woefully inadequate even to meet current needs. After evaluating many options, OFB's Board decided to purchase an existing warehouse facility at 1870 NW 173rd Dr., Beaverton, completing the purchase agreement on Oct. 14, 2008. Appraised at \$3.8 million, OFB negotiated a sales price of \$2.95 million to be paid over five years, which includes a charitable contribution by the seller of \$850,000. The new site is more central to agencies spread throughout Washington County and, at 36,000 square feet (compared with approximately 14,300 feet currently in two separate buildings), also provides enough space to address multiple statewide needs. A retrofitted warehouse will accommodate:

- Expanded, better organized refrigeration, with cooling zones correlating to type of product, minimizing product loss.
- Growing volume of products received directly from farmers and retailers for statewide distribution. Processing areas will enable OFB to engage an estimated 15,000 volunteers in repacking perishables.
- A large temperature-controlled sorting room to double the volume of highly nutritious perishables recovered via Fresh Alliance retail rescue program.
- Expanded service to surrounding counties (including Tillamook where services are

- Increased access for member agency order pick up.

This request targets funding to the purchase of the facility. HUD-EDI funds will be used to pay the \$2 million balance and interest and interest through April, 2011, the soonest date when OFB could pay off the balance without penalties. This will help OFB show significant progress and diverse support of its Capital Campaign, needed to attract additional foundation, corporate and individual funders to complete the project. It will assure full ownership by OFB allowing us to focus on funding a phased remodel of the facility to fit OFB needs. Construction will mean jobs and economic activity in the community. Overall, a new location for OFB West would also strengthen community collaborations, the underpinning of any successful food bank.

7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years? **No.**

7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding. **N/A**

8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific –e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account): **HUD/EDI**

9. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

The purpose is improved service to Washington County hunger relief agencies and low-income households; serve as a hub for services in Tillamook County; support statewide emergency food distribution efforts by creating a multi-functional facility that allows OFB to accept and process and deliver more high quality fresh, frozen and value-added foods of greater variety; involve more volunteers in hunger-relief work from food repack to food stamp outreach; provide better access to emergency food by local agencies; and better enable OFB to solicit any and all potential food donation sources at a time when the community is facing record-breaking need. The project will support an improved economy through construction jobs provided via the remodeling project; allow expanded delivery of emergency food, augmenting the health of working adults and their children, tomorrow's workforce; aid community financial stability by providing low-income families with an income supplement. The remodeled facility will give OFB the space for expanded program activity in Washington County (gardening, nutrition education and outreach), which will trigger increases in OFB staffing in future years – 11 additions projected through 2012.

10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress?

If so, who?

This request is being submitted to the entire Oregon delegation.

11. Funding Details:

a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years): \$ 7.5 million (est.)

b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010: \$2 million.

c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)

State: \$ 150,000 in General Food Fund Program funding earmarked for Network capacity

Local:

OFB:

- General Fund for down payment: \$ 1,000,000

Individual Donations Received to date:

- Merk Family Trust, \$850,000 in-kind (discount in purchase price of InSport building)
- Miscellaneous individual donations of \$115,600

Corporations:

- Fred Meyer Fund, \$50,000
- Walsh Construction, \$100,000 pledge, Jan.2009
- GBD Architects, \$25,500 in-kind pledged
- Work Stations/Furniture from anonymous corporate donor \$100,000 (est. value)

Foundations:

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, \$100,000, Received December, 2008

d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project? Possibly in 2011.

e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010.

\$2 million toward building purchase. OFB put \$1 million down toward the \$2.95 million principle and is making payments of \$9,750 per month to the seller that otherwise could be used immediately in support of phased remodeling, resulting in job creation and general support of the local economy (purchase of materials, etc.)

(e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:

We attach letters of support from

- St. Matthews Lutheran Church, an OFB-Washington County Services network member food pantry in Beaverton, signed by all members of the “Leadership Team.”
- Priscilla Lewis- Regional director of Community Services & Development, Providence Health Systems, and OFB Board member
- Emily Gottfried- Executive Director of Oregon Area Jewish Committee
- SonRise church, an OFB-Washington County Services network member food pantry in Hillsboro.

g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?):

OFB has already scaled the project back to the basics because of the poor economy. The focus is retiring the debt and funding the first phase of construction: installing the cooler/freezer necessary to support the core project goals (perishable collection and processing; expanded refrigeration to minimize product loss; expanded service to surrounding counties, etc.) This request will provide critical assistance if received at any point during Federal FY 2010.

Please return this form no later than February 13, 2009 (via email) to:

appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov