

*"The most exciting thing about this collaborative ACT TO END HUNGER is that we can already see the impact from our actions. Even though thousands of Oregonians still struggle to keep food on the table, more families now have access to tax credits, nutrition support programs and other services that can help get them through tough times. Working together really does make a difference."*

*—Governor Ted Kulongoski*

2008 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ~ MAY 2008

# ACT TO END HUNGER



## 40 WAYS IN FIVE YEARS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This third Action Summary highlights our April 2006-April 2008 accomplishments and sets priorities for the 5<sup>th</sup> year. ACT TO END HUNGER continues to inspire Oregonians to make a significant difference in our communities for Oregon's families. Our state has gone from #1 in hunger to the middle of the states during this time.

Of Particular Note in the past two years:

- Oregon's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program received an additional \$25.8 million dedicated to strengthening Oregon's families.
- Consumer loan rates were capped at 36% (down from the 500%-600% regularly charged), protecting low-income families from dangerous debt burdens.
- Oregon's successful collaboration to increase food stamp participation has resulted in a nearly \$3 million bonus allocation from USDA, dedicated to reaching more families and seniors.

The Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force has seen extraordinary success with the ACT TO END HUNGER. There has been progress on 26 of the 40 actions in the plan.

Even so, we face new challenges in the immediate future—a dramatic and continuing increase in the costs of food, fuel and housing—while wages have not kept up.

Until all families have income adequate to meet their basic needs and put nutritious food on the table, our communities remain at risk.

We have much to celebrate—and much remains to be done. Join us in building a stronger Oregon, where all families thrive!

# ACT TO END HUNGER

The Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force and its new nonprofit arm, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, have collaborated with many statewide and local community organizations in advocating for the accomplishments below. Special recognition goes to Oregon Food Bank, the Housing Alliance and Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger. We have had strong leadership, support, and collaboration from the State's Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger, Governor Kulongoski, and the Legislature. [Note: Because of space limitations, this summary only captures the major accomplishments. The numbers in parentheses refer to the Actions in the full Act to End Hunger report.]

## FAMILY ECONOMIC STABILITY

### GOAL: DEVELOP LIVING WAGE OPPORTUNITIES.

#### Accomplishments:

- The Parents as Scholars program will be fully implemented in 2008, increasing opportunities for low-income parents to secure a college education (Action #2).
- The Oregon Opportunity Grant Program was doubled to \$106 million—benefiting low-income students seeking higher education and better jobs (Action #2).

### GOAL: STRENGTHEN FAMILY STABILITY WITH PROGRAMS THAT OFFSET LIVING EXPENSES.

#### Accomplishments:

- The Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit was increased from \$11 million to \$15 million (Action #5).
- Working families, seniors, veterans and people with disabilities will benefit from \$27 million in new resources allocated to fund and preserve affordable housing (Action #5).
- The income limit was raised to 185% of the federal poverty level for the Employment Related Day Care Program, and co-payments were reduced (Action #8).

#### Next:

- Secure additional revenue to develop a sufficient number of affordable homes for Oregon families through local and regional trust funds and at the state level (Action #5).
- Identify and secure sufficient funding to provide health insurance for all Oregon children who are uninsured (Action #7).
- Implement a Paid Family Leave program so that lower-income workers can take needed time off to care for a sick child or other family member (Action #6).

### GOAL: REVAMP THE TAX & LENDING SYSTEMS TO PROTECT LOW-WAGE WORKERS.

#### Accomplishments:

- Consumer loan interest rates were capped at 36% (down from the 500%-600% typically charged) and restrictions were placed on payday and title loans—giving Oregonians some of the strongest protections in the country (Action #11).
- The Oregon Income Tax Credit was made permanently refundable with its rate of 6% extended—protecting resources that help families meet their basic needs (Action #12).

#### Next:

- Increase the state Earned Income Credit percentage so that families making below poverty wages have more money to put food on the table (Action #12).
- Increase protections for low-income consumers who have home mortgage loans (expansion of Action #11).

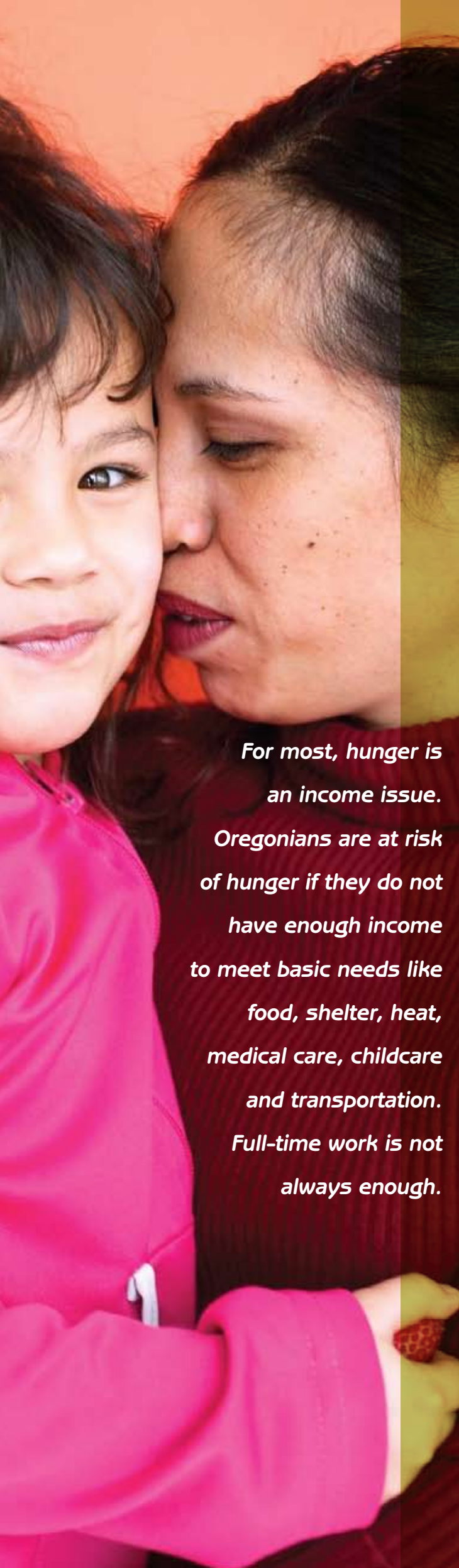
### GOAL: CREATE AN ADEQUATE SAFETY NET FOR THOSE UNABLE TO WORK.

#### Accomplishments:

- Oregon's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program received an additional \$25.8 million dedicated to strengthening child support, transitions to work, better assessments—and a new family Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program (Action #14).

#### Next:

- Expand the unemployment insurance system to allow part-time workers to receive benefits (Action #13).
- Ensure full, quality implementation of Oregon's TANF reforms (Action #14).
- Reinststitute and fund the General Assistance Program to provide transitional support for extremely low-income people with disabilities (Action #15).



*For most, hunger is an income issue. Oregonians are at risk of hunger if they do not have enough income to meet basic needs like food, shelter, heat, medical care, childcare and transportation. Full-time work is not always enough.*

# COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

**GOAL: DEVELOP AND SUPPORT A SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS, WITH STATEWIDE COORDINATION.**

**Accomplishments:**

- A proposal to fund a State Food Policy Council is in process, setting the stage for statewide leadership on community food security issues (Action #16).

**Next:**

- Establish a State Food Policy Council, incorporating farm-to-institution work into the Council (Action #16).

**GOAL: SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS AND IMPROVE THE NUTRITION OF OREGONIANS.**

**Accomplishments:**

- Food stamp bonus funding of \$207,000 expanded support for farmers' markets, including purchase of electronic benefit transfer machines, farmer training and programs to increase senior participation (Action #19).
- Funding for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Senior Farmers' Market Voucher Programs was increased by \$49,000 and \$122,000 respectively (Action #21).
- Farm-to-school program positions were established within both the Oregon departments of Education and of Agriculture to improve child nutrition and to support Oregon's food industry (Action #22).
- A fruit and vegetable program was recently expanded to all states (Action #24).

**Next:**

- Increase funding for the Senior and WIC Farmers' Market Voucher Programs and secure local funding for WIC offices (Action #21).



*Community food security means that all people, at all times, have access to safe, nutritious, affordable, adequate and culturally appropriate food from non-emergency sources. It also means that food is produced, processed and distributed in ways that honor the workers who produce it and protect the environment.*

**FOR A LIST OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE ACT, GO TO [www.oregonhunger.org](http://www.oregonhunger.org)**

# FEDERAL FOOD PROGRAMS

**Goal: Reduce barriers and increase participation in underutilized federal food programs.**

## Accomplishments:

- The Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force has raised over \$400,000 since 2004 for outreach on food stamps and child nutrition programs. (Action #25).
- In 2007, Oregon's high food stamp participation rate (over 80% of those eligible) earned the state \$1.7 million in federal food stamp bonus dollars from USDA, which has been matched for a total of \$2.94 million to be reinvested in nutrition programs (Action #25).
- DHS and partner agencies applied for and received a USDA grant to implement an online application pilot program, targeting seniors and working families. (Action #28).
- Thirty-five new summer food program sites have been opened since 2006 (Action #25).

## Next:

- Secure a state investment of 7 cents for each school lunch that includes locally grown fruits and vegetables (Action #29).
- Eliminate the co-pay for children's reduced-price meals, starting with school breakfast programs (Action #25).
- Provide mini-grants to help cover start-up costs of child nutrition programs, including Breakfast in the Classroom, summer food and after school meals (Action #29).
- Document the status of senior nutrition programs, including congregate meals, home delivered meals and Farmers' Market Vouchers, and advocate for expansion (Action #26).

**Goal: Improve and invest in programs at the federal level.**

## Accomplishments:

- An Oregon Farm Bill Coalition worked with the Oregon Congressional Delegation to include critical improvements to food stamps and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in the farm bill (Action #34).

## Next:

- Support reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs in 2009 with significant improvements in access and benefits (Actions #31, 32 & 33).

# EMERGENCY FOOD SERVICES

**Goal: Increase the capacity of Oregon Food Bank's statewide network.**

## Accomplishments:

- State funding for Oregon Food Bank's network was increased to \$2 million (Action #36).
- Food stamp bonus funds will increase the capacity of the food bank network to provide food and resources to families (Action #37).

## Next:

- Secure additional funding to build the capacity of Oregon Food Bank's network as consumer costs increase and families need more help with food (Actions #36 & 37).

O R E G O N H U N G E R R E L I E F T A S K F O R C E

