



Partners for a  
Hunger-Free Oregon

## 2010 ADDRESSING HUNGER - SNAP in Oregon Counties

# Coos COUNTY Oregon

Many Coos County households are at risk of hunger. Federal food programs help rural Oregonians and support local agriculture, food retailers and other businesses. Connecting eligible households to SNAP will bring thousands more federal dollars into the Coos County economy each year.

### Coos County Poverty Indicators

Seniors in poverty (65+)<sup>1</sup>: 7.7%  
Children in poverty (18 & under)<sup>3</sup>: 24.5%  
Coos poverty rate 2008<sup>2</sup>: 36.6%  
Statewide poverty rate<sup>4</sup>: 13.5%

### SNAP Participation and Benefits

SNAP participation rate<sup>6</sup>: 74%  
Senior SNAP participation<sup>7</sup>: 24%  
Avg. monthly SNAP benefits per participant<sup>8</sup>: \$86.00

### Housing Costs

Renters unable to afford Fair Market Rate apartment<sup>9</sup>: 48.0% (44% statewide)  
Cost of 1-bedroom apartment<sup>10</sup>: \$595.00  
No. of hours needed to work per week at mean wage to afford 1-bedroom apt<sup>11</sup>: 47



### SNAP helps rural communities

The economic crisis has been hard on rural residents. Poverty is more prevalent than in urban areas<sup>12</sup> and families have limited access to services that can help.<sup>13</sup> Seniors and people with disabilities are especially vulnerable with reductions in retirement savings and high health care costs. Record unemployment and a lackluster housing market make it difficult for many residents to make ends meet.<sup>14</sup> The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) is one way to make sure rural Oregonians can weather financial storms.

In 2009, a monthly average of 13,793 residents of Coos County participated in SNAP, receiving benefits totaling \$20,298,980.00 over the year.<sup>15</sup> These benefits were used at 65 food retailers in the county, with the average benefit totaling \$86.00 per participant.<sup>16</sup>

Despite the resources SNAP provided, it is still underutilized in Coos County. Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon estimates that in 2009, 74% of people who were eligible for SNAP received help. **If all eligible persons participated, as much as \$3,721,246.00 in additional SNAP dollars would have been spent at Coos County retailers and vendors.**<sup>17</sup>

## How rural residents can access SNAP

Coos County residents can obtain applications for SNAP benefits at the nearest Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) Self-Sufficiency office or by downloading and printing an application from the DHS website at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/foodstamps/foodstamps.html>. (DHS will implement a new interactive online application in 2011). People aged 60+ may apply at their local senior services office. The application process may be completed either in person or by phone.

SNAP outreach materials are available at no cost. Contact Nancy Weed, SNAP Outreach Coordinator, at 503-595-5501, ext. 308 to obtain materials or to learn about groups conducting outreach in Coos County.

For more information on eligibility or to obtain a SNAP application, please visit the DHS website: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/foodstamps/snap-info.shtml#apply>. Additional information available at Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon: [www.oregonhunger.org](http://www.oregonhunger.org).

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## Farmers' Markets and SNAP

Farmers' Markets and farm stands can be an effective way for many communities to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables available to rural residents while also supporting local farmers. Many markets now accept SNAP benefits, along with vouchers for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) participants, and seniors through the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

**Farmers' Markets in Coos County:** Coos Bay (2), Coquille

**Farmers' Market in Coos County accepting SNAP and/or WIC:** WIC in Brookings and Coquille

For an updated listing of Farmers' Markets locations, times, and information on which markets accept SNAP, WIC and vouchers, go to:

- Food For Oregon website at [http://foodfororegon.oregonstate.edu/community\\_food\\_programs](http://foodfororegon.oregonstate.edu/community_food_programs)
- Oregon Farmers' Market Association website at <http://oregonfarmersmarkets.org/directory/directory.html>

Information about the benefits of accepting SNAP at local Farmers Markets: [http://www.foodsecurity.org/pub/RealFoodRealChoice\\_SNAP\\_FarmersMarkets.pdf](http://www.foodsecurity.org/pub/RealFoodRealChoice_SNAP_FarmersMarkets.pdf).

### *To Apply for SNAP:*

#### **Local DHS-Self-Sufficiency Office**

Newmark Center  
2110 Newmark Ave  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
Phone: 541-888-2667  
Fax: 541-888-7050  
The Courtyard  
341 2nd St  
Coquille, OR 97423  
Phone: 541-396-7282  
Fax: 541-396-2962

#### **Local DHS-Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Office**

Coquille SPD  
341 Second Street  
Coquille, OR 97423  
Phone: 541-396-7282  
FAX: 541-396-2962

North Bend SPD  
3030 Broadway  
North Bend, OR 97459  
Phone: 541-756-2017  
FAX: 541-756-1861  
TTY: 541-756-8799

South Coast Business Employment Corp. AAA  
93781 Newport  
Coos Bay, OR 97420-4030  
541-269-2013 or Toll-free 800-858-5777

For updated information, go to DHS website at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/offices.shtml#> or call SafeNet at 1-800-723-3638.

#### ***Referrals to DHS and other food and community resources:***

#### **Oregon SafeNet**

1-800-SAFE-NET (1-800-723-3638)

#### **Oregon Helps**

Eligibility estimator at <http://www.oregonhelps.org/>

#### **Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon**

Nancy Weed 503-595-5501 ext. 308  
[nancy@oregonhunger.org](mailto:nancy@oregonhunger.org)

## **Other Food Resources**

Some households may be ineligible for SNAP dollars or may need additional resources to help meet their nutritional needs. Other food resources:

### **Area Agency on Aging**

South Coast Business Employment Corp. AAA  
93781 Newport  
Coos Bay, OR 97420-4030  
541-269-2013 or Toll-free 800-858-5777

### **Regional Food Bank**

South Coast Food Share  
2110 Newmark  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
Phone: 541-888-7536  
Web site: [www.orcca.us](http://www.orcca.us)  
Counties served: Coos, Curry  
Persons in need may contact this organization for referrals to food pantries (see below).

### **Food Pantries**

Bandon Good Neighbors, Bandon  
SDA, Coos Bay  
SDA Community Svcs., Coquille  
Emmanuel Episcopal Food Cupboard, Coos Bay  
Myrtle Point Food Bank, Myrtle Point  
Joseph Project - Powers Church of God, Powers  
North Bend Presbyterian Food Cupboard, North Bend  
Charleston Food Bank, Coos Bay  
Restoration Worship Center, Bandon  
T.H.E. House Inc., Coos Bay  
E.A.T. Inc, Bandon  
Salvation Army Pantry, Coos Bay  
North Bend Senior Center, North Bend

### **Gleaners**

Coastal Harvest Gleaners

### **Community Action Programs**

Oregon Coast Community Action  
(ORCCA)  
2110 Newmark Avenue  
Coos Bay, OR 97420-2957  
(541) 888-1574  
[www.orcca.us](http://www.orcca.us)

### **Oregon Food Bank**

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



## County Quick Facts

### Population and Geography

- 2009 Population<sup>18</sup>: 63,169
- Seniors in county (aged 65+)<sup>5</sup>: 13,329
- Population per square mile<sup>19</sup>: 43.1 people
- Metropolitan areas<sup>20</sup>: Astoria
- County Seat<sup>21</sup>: Coquille
- Population living in rural areas<sup>22</sup>: 38%

### Economic Indicators

- Unemployment rate (July 2010)<sup>23</sup>: 12.7%
- Homeless children (2010)<sup>24</sup>: 459

### Useful Publications:

- Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon information on SNAP Outreach available at <http://oregonhunger.org/food-stamp-outreach>
- Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon: Ending Hunger Before It Begins: Oregon's Call to Action 2010-2015 available at <http://oregonhunger.org/oregon-hunger-plan>
- SNAP Outreach Best Practices available at <http://www.mypyramidforkids.gov/snap/outreach/coalition/resources/Exce>
- Food For Oregon available at <http://foodfororegon.oregonstate.edu/>
- Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development available at <http://www.agdevjournal.com/>
- Friends of Family Farms [http://www.friendsoffamilyfarmers.org/Downloads/toolkit\\_web.pdf](http://www.friendsoffamilyfarmers.org/Downloads/toolkit_web.pdf)

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<sup>1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18</sup> 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimate with further analysis by Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Environment Atlas available at <http://maps.ers.usda.gov/FoodAtlas/foodenv5.aspx>

<sup>4, 19, 20, 22</sup> U.S. Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts available at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/41000.html>

<sup>9, 10, 11</sup> National Low-Income Housing Coalition available at <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2010/> (Fair Market Rate for a 1-bedroom apartment)

<sup>12</sup> USDA Rural Poverty at a Glance <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/rdr100/rdr100.htm>

<sup>13</sup> Gross, J. and Rosenberger, N. "The Double Binds of Getting Food among the Poor in Rural Oregon", Food, Culture and Society: An International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, Volume 13, Number 1, March 2010, pp. 47-70(24).

<sup>14</sup> "The Not-So-Golden Years: Confronting Elderly Poverty and Improving Seniors' Economic Security", Center for American Progress available at [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/09/not\\_so\\_golden\\_years.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/09/not_so_golden_years.html)

<sup>20</sup> National Association of Counties available at [http://www.naco.org/Counties/Pages/NACo\\_FindACounty.aspx](http://www.naco.org/Counties/Pages/NACo_FindACounty.aspx)

<sup>21</sup> City Data available at <http://www.city-data.com/city/Oregon.html>

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, data for July 2010, Unemployment Data available at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/laucntycur14.txt>

<sup>24</sup> Oregon Department of Education. It was an email communication on 10/7/10 with Dona Bolt, State Coordinator for the Homeless Education Program