

An overhead view of a person wearing a grey beanie and a dark long-sleeved shirt, sorting food items into cardboard boxes on a white table. The table is covered with various food items, including bags of snacks, boxes of cereal, and fresh produce like green beans. A black bag and a blue bag are also visible on the table. The background is a concrete floor.

SAVE CSC'S FOOD HUB



We're reaching out with urgent news about the future of Clackamas Service Center: **our warehouse location, the Food Hub, is at risk of closure.**

Inflation, cuts to SNAP and other federal supports, and a steep rise in the cost of basic needs have pushed more people than ever to seek out our programs — and at the same time, our costs are rising and funding is shrinking. A confluence of challenging circumstances, including reduced public and foundation funding and increased operational costs are forcing us to consider making major cuts to our operations.

Without a significant increase in community support, we face heartbreaking decisions about the future of our work. CSC's Food Hub, our warehouse where we store, sort, and distribute the vast majority of our groceries, and where we are on track to distribute 1.6 million pounds of donated food this year, is at risk of closure as early as February 2026.

CSC has launched a Save the Food Hub campaign this fall to sustain this critical lifeline for thousands of local community members. If we can raise \$650,000 by January 1st, 2026, we can keep the Food Hub open for the next year. Without your support, our grocery programs — and the stability they provide to our neighbors, friends, family members, seniors, and veterans — are in immediate jeopardy.

The Food Hub's Impact

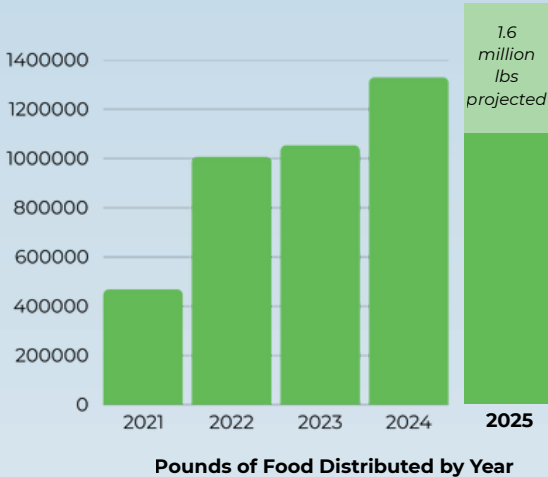
You may already know that CSC is a safety net to thousands of neighbors — offering food, showers, mail services, clothing, and care to families, seniors, and individuals facing food insecurity or homelessness.

Yet, you might not know the full impact of CSC's work over the past few years.

In 2021, in response to the growing local need for food support, and with a vision for expanded food resources for our own community members and for the many non-profits we work alongside, we opened our 8,000 square foot warehouse, lovingly dubbed the Food Hub.

With so much additional storage space, including huge walk-in refrigerators and freezers, we've been able to accept far larger food donations from local grocery stores and food distributors — donations that other organizations are frequently forced to turn down due to lack of space, and would otherwise be sent to nonprofits further afield, or even to landfill.

Then, we distribute this amazing bounty of 130,000+ pounds of food per month to people who need it — over 9,000 people a month — both through CSC programs and with help from our Food Share partners, our allied non-profit food pantries and schools in the area. And still, demand for food support continues to rise. **With 1 in 8 Oregonians facing food insecurity, the food we distribute fills a huge gap for so many neighbors.**



Prior to the Food Hub, CSC distributed approximately 480,000 pounds of food annually, to about 2,000 people monthly. In 2024, we distributed 1.3 million pounds of food, and in 2025, we are on track to distribute 1.6 million pounds of food.

The loss of this resource would mean approximately 1.1 million pounds of food — or the equivalent of more than one million meals — would no longer be available to people in need in our community. That means more children going to school hungry, more families living with the compounding chronic stress of not having enough food, and more neighbors quietly choosing to skip meals so they can pay rent.

How We Got Here

When we opened the Food Hub, with help from many of you, we knew there were unmet needs. **We could not have predicted the extent of today's demand.** We have had to hire more staff than originally planned to manage the scale of warehouse operations safely. Rising food prices, increased utility costs (especially for refrigeration and freezer systems), and the need to offer competitive wages to retain staff across the organization have all compounded pressure on our operating budget.

Our financial challenges are coming at a dangerous time for people already in, or on the brink of, crisis. Just as the need is growing, cuts to federal food programs have reduced the volume of food we receive through the Oregon Food Bank by nearly 20%. So far, we have been able to add new food donation partners to make up the difference, but we are unsure how long we will be able to do so.

Major cuts to SNAP benefits from the 2025 GOP megabill are already rolling out, and cuts will be fully enacted by early 2027. Facing those cuts, a family of 3 would receive approximately \$160 less in “food stamp” benefits each month.

Meanwhile, costs for food, housing, healthcare, and transportation continue to climb. Even the strongest of boot straps were not designed to stretch this far. We know, because our members tell us, that the Food Hub is the final safety net for many local families. **If the Food Hub closes, thousands of area residents, many of whom are already on the brink, will lose access to nutritious food and find themselves one step closer to homelessness.**

What We Need Now

We are currently pursuing all avenues to sustain the facility, including seeking out public sector support and launching a Save the Food Hub campaign with the goal of raising \$650,000 by January 1st, 2026. We are asking you to:

- **DONATE** towards this campaign to save a life-sustaining resource for some of the most vulnerable people in our community
- **SHARE** the campaign far and wide on social media, with your friends and family, or anywhere else where people you care about gather
- **ADVOCATE** with your elected representatives to support hunger relief work wherever you live

Without your support, our community risks a cascade of preventable crises. With it, we can continue to help our neighbors remain fed, housed, and hopeful. Thank you for your partnership during this urgent moment.

Sincerely,



Celess Roman
Executive Director
503-754-3572

Support the campaign:

cscoregon.org/save-the-food-hub



CSC's non-profit Food Share Partners access food and hygiene items at CSC's Food Hub on a monthly, weekly, or even daily basis.

The Food Hub's ample storage space means CSC can accept large food donations other local food pantries cannot, ensuring food that would otherwise be wasted reaches those who need it most.

Through these partnerships, our food resources are spread across the region to over 9,000 people each month, primarily impacting high-risk groups such as children, college students, and rural communities.

CSC's Regular Food Share Partners

Bridging Cultures Canby

Clackamas Community College's Food Pantry

Estacada School District's Food Pantry

Esther's Pantry

Francis Center

Outside In's Milwaukie High School Food Pantry

Wichita Center for Family and Community

& more!

Food Share Partners Expand CSC's Impact

"CSC provides the ability to access produce that our pantry just doesn't have the capacity to store. They allow us to stop by a couple days a week, sometimes all days of the week if the need demands it."

If we get a large donation from a partner grocery store that we can't store because it is perishable, CSC has the ability to take that product on. Nothing goes to waste.

"If Clackamas Service Center's warehouse closed, it would devastate our pantry." They operate as such a major hub for so many pantries and food resources, it would leave a gaping hole that most of us would struggle to recover from."

- Lindsay Schoenecker, Community Services Assistant Manager, **Esther's Pantry**, located inside Providence Milwaukie Hospital, serving 2,500 people monthly

"If Clackamas Service Center's warehouse closed, we would lose a huge amount of fresh food for our community. With the other food programs also having to tighten their belts, the loss of any food is going to be felt beyond just our community."

- Melinda Nickas, Faculty, **Clackamas Community College Food Pantry**, serving approximately 2,000 people monthly



Pictured: Clackamas Community College Food Pantry



Frequently Asked Questions

We know this is big news! Here are some answers to questions we anticipate getting a lot:

When you say hunger is rising, what does that mean?

Statewide, the Oregon Food Bank reported a 31% increase in demand for food support between 2023 and 2024. We don't have more recent statistics yet, but another increase in the past year is expected. At CSC, in the past year, we've seen a 21% increase in demand at the Center alone, and our Food Share partners who help distribute CSC food also report seeing much higher demand.

It's a symptom of the rising cost of living, and especially the cost of food, which is pushing more households to the brink of hunger and even homelessness.

Why is procuring funding hard right now?

A multitude of reasons. Federal issues are wreaking havoc on fundraising in general, as organizations in all sectors of non-profit work scramble to fill the holes left by withdrawn federal funding. This means competition for grants is very high, and we're receiving fewer than we'd normally expect. Some of our corporate donors are having a hard year, with less to share, thanks to tariffs and other developments. Finally, of course, some individual donors are themselves seeing their resources stretched thinner by the same rising inflation and basic needs costs that are creating the hunger crisis in the first place.

\$650,000 is a lot of money! Why is that your goal?

When you add up the cost of our Food Hub lease, staffing, utilities, vehicle costs, insurance, and food purchasing, \$650,000 is a nice, even number that is almost our full cost to run our Food Hub between now (September 2025) and the end of 2026. The cost of running the warehouse in 2026 is approximately \$500,000.

How are you going to raise that amount of money in this short timeline?

Individual donors, grantors, and corporate partners have already started chipping in, and we have more funding requests and gifts in the works including some matching opportunities you'll hear about soon.

We also have a fraction of the costs of running the Food Hub already covered by Clackamas County and SNAP Outreach grant programs, covering almost \$80,000 of the costs of the Food Hub through the end of 2026.

We also believe there are many community members who will support this cause if they hear what is at stake. We have grown a lot in the past few years, but we still fly a bit under the radar. Folks came out of the woodwork to support our programs during the crisis of Covid and we hope they will again, now. This is why we need your help to spread the word. Every gift adds up!

Why do you need so much funding by January 1st?

Like most non-profits, our income isn't spread evenly throughout the year. Most donations arrive between our fall fundraiser, Harvesting Hope, and the end of the holiday giving season, and the slowest months for donations are typically January through May. That means we need more cash on hand in January than at any other time of the year, in order to have the reserves to carry us through the fundraising year's slowest months. Right now, we don't have the cash savings cushion we need to make it past the beginning of the year.

What if you don't make your goal?

In the case that the campaign falls short, the funds raised will still help share food support with the community, while also lengthening our timeline to pursue other funding. Every dollar raised will help us keep the Food Hub open a little bit longer, giving us time to keep searching for new funding and pursuing contingency plans. For example, new grant opportunities open in the spring. However, without raising the full goal by January 1st, we still risk the possibility of closing the Food Hub before the end of 2026.

I just donated recently -or- I'm planning a gift in the next couple of months. Does that help?

Since the Save the Food Hub campaign will run along the same timeline as our annual fundraising event, Harvesting Hope, and will continue through our end-of-year giving campaign, we're avoiding confusion: funds raised beginning in September and through holiday season giving will to be directed to this campaign (unless you have instructed us to set your donation aside for another specific purpose).

Thanks to some generous matching gift opportunities, this year's Harvesting Hope event was our biggest ever, raising a gross of over \$160,000 and providing some early momentum to this campaign! We've also had early support thanks to media coverage from [KGW](#), [Fox](#), [KOIN](#), and [Carpenter Media Group](#).

Though gifts received before September are not being tallied towards the campaign, they are still funding the same vital work of providing resources to people facing hunger.

Thank you for everything you do for CSC, and anything you can do to help make this campaign a success!

Check our campaign progress or make a donation:
cscoregon.org/save-the-food-hub

