

Linn Benton Food Share is dedicated to the proposition that no one goes hungry in the two-county area we serve. In order to efficiently move food to those in need, LBFS partners with a network of local non-profits throughout Linn and Benton counties. LBFS is also part of the Oregon Food Bank Network. LBFS solicits and distributes nearly 5 million pounds of food each year.



LBFS Resources and Distribution

- LBFS Delivery program – Linn Benton Food Share delivers to every emergency food box and emergency meal site location in Linn & Benton counties.
- Fresh Alliance program – In partnership with Fred Meyer, Albertsons, Ray’s Market and Wal-Mart, LBFS collects dairy, milk, produce, meat and other products from local grocery stores that is close to pull date and distributes immediately to our network of food pantries and soup kitchens. An average of 20,000 pounds of high-quality food is saved from the landfill each month.
- Food Rescue Program – Collects “prepared but not served” food from McNary, Arnold and Marketplace West dining halls on the OSU campus. Food is distributed immediately to meal site locations in Linn and Benton counties. Average pounds saved per month: 5,500.
- Volunteers – LBFS relies on the hard work and enthusiasm of community volunteers engaged in various projects that include food drives, fund-raising projects, re-pack opportunities at the LBFS warehouse, and countless hours dedicated at the local agency level.

Types of Programs in the LBFS Network

Emergency Food Box Agencies (food pantries) provide a 3-5 day supply of food to individuals and families at or below 185% of the federal poverty rate. 23 agencies of this type provide food to an average of nearly 13,000 individuals per month in Linn & Benton counties (2008-09).

Emergency Meal Site (soup kitchens) provide a safe and welcoming environment in addition to a free meal to individuals and families seeking assistance. 13 agencies provide an average of 22,000 meals per month in the two-county area.

Supplemental Programs – Non-profit agencies that serve low-income individuals or families where food is part of the program service. Agencies include child daycare, drug & alcohol rehab centers, and group homes, among other types. 21 agencies provide an average of 23,000 meals per month.

Gleaners & Wood Share – Non-profit programs consisting of and run by low-income program beneficiaries. Active members harvest food from farmers’ fields, grocery stores, individual backyards, etc. Food is shared 50/50 among active members and “adoptee” families. Adoptees are often homebound, chronically ill, or elderly.

Who you help with your support

The demographic profile of those helped through Linn Benton Food Share runs the gamut of the profiles of poverty.

Some of the more salient facts are listed below (figures apply to the emergency food box program only):

36% of those receiving emergency food are children. 7% are 65 and older.

55% of households have children. 46% of households had at least one member working.

30% of households have one or more member working a full-time job.

58% of households report delaying medical care; 68% of households report delaying dental care.

47% of households delay filling medical prescriptions due to cost; 56% report medical/hospital debts.

Economic worries and dramatic Increases in Emergency Food Requests

LBFS has seen the number of individuals relying on emergency food rise dramatically this year. During the 08-09 Fiscal Year, requests for emergency food were up 13% over the previous year---an increase of 17,000 more people served than the previous year. With economic uncertainty, layoffs, and higher fuel and food prices, more people are facing tough choices between food, rent or medical coverage. Linn Benton Food Share will continue in our mission to ensure that “Everybody Eats.”

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On the web: www.communityservices.us