



The Coalition to Advance Food Equity (CAFE)

represents a network of gleaning and food pantry nonprofits making a significant impact on food security across Portland. Together, we distribute millions of pounds of food annually, feeding over 180,000 people. Our newly formed coalition seeks to advocate for hyper local, sustainable solutions to hunger. Our programs are essential to Portland's most vulnerable residents.



MISSION:

Increase Equitable Access To Nutritious Food, Strengthen Our Community, And Advocate For Local Solutions To Reduce Hunger.



RISING NEED:

Our Coalition Has Seen A 20-30% Annual Increase In Demand Since 2020 Due To Increases In Cost To Our Clients, And To Our Essential Operating Costs (25% Inflation On Food, 20% Utilities, 30% Transportation)



WHO WE SERVE:

Seniors, Adults With Disabilities, Immigrants, Residents Of Subsidized Housing, Students, Unhoused Individuals. 1 In 8 Multnomah County Residents Experience Food Insecurity.

FOOD INSECURITY IMPACTS ON HOUSING & HEALTH

- Hunger significantly impacts health and housing stability—families experiencing food instability are 62% more likely to face housing challenges.
- Food insecurity exacerbates chronic health conditions, worsened by poverty and social isolation.

OUR UNIQUE IMPACT - COMMUNITY BUILDING THROUGH FOOD

- We harness the power of food to connect people. Programs like Lift UP's Supper Club, Urban Gleaners local volunteer run pantry and Fruit Tree Projects community harvests, as well as the many neighborhood and university pantries that connect neighbors to food where they live, helps alleviate social isolation and build meaningful community connections.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Our gleaning efforts divert surplus food from landfills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions while providing nutritious food to underserved communities.
- Reducing food waste aligns with Portland's Climate Emergency Plan to cut emissions 50% by 2030.

COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

- We have innovated during a crisis to keep up with the need. We work closely with other food security coalition partners and Partners for Hunger Free Oregon. Together, we can solve hunger with coordinated efforts, shared resources, and policy advocacy.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- We are seeking connection with decision makers to join us "at the table" to find solutions to the growing need in our community. We are educating our community that the crisis we're experiencing is largely a distribution and access crisis. We believe that modest investments and policy changes can meaningfully move the needle on hunger in Portland.

COALITION PARTNERS:

Community For Positive Aging, Lift UP, Neighborhood House, OHSU, Portland Fruit Tree Project, PSU Student Pantry, Urban Gleaners, William Temple House, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral