



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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URGENT CALL TO SUPPORT DOUGLAS COUNTY'S EMERGENCY FOOD NETWORK

Many of Douglas County's low-income residents rely on two sources to ward off hunger: meals made available through Douglas County's emergency food network and SNAP (food stamps). With food prices soaring recently, United Community Action Network's (UCAN) Douglas County Food Bank has seen demand for emergency meals doubling from previous years.

Earlier this year, the federal government reduced some Food Bank's funding, decreasing the amount of food it can purchase. Now, it is likely local residents will not receive their food stamp benefits in November. Many of our most vulnerable neighbors-local children, local seniors and local people with disabilities-will be left without adequate food to meet their needs.

The suspension of the food stamp benefit is going to put enormous pressure on our network to meet local needs. UCAN's CEO, Jordan Jungwirth observes: "Hunger isn't going to wait for a policy decision to be made. In Douglas County, one in five children are living in poverty and far too many families are already doing everything right but still struggling to get by. Having access to emergency food means people won't have to choose between buying groceries, paying rent, or keeping the lights on. This is a call to action for us all."

With approximately 18% of Douglas County households about to lose food stamps, there are a number of actions local residents can take to stop hunger locally:

1. Donate Today

Financial contributions, whether one-time or recurring, make the biggest difference. UCAN can purchase food at subsidized rates through the USDA and Feeding America. Every \$10 donated helps UCAN provide up to 30 meals across Douglas County. Visit www.ucancap.org and click "Donate Today." From the drop-down menu labeled "Apply my Donation To," select "Food Bank" to ensure your gift directly supports immediate food assistance across Douglas County.

2. Support Local Food Drives

Community food drives remain an important way to increase the Food Bank's food supply. The following are hosting food drives in November:

- a. Banner Bank: Now through October 31
- b. Rogue Credit Union: All of November
- c. KVAL's Take A Bite Out Of Hunger (TABOOH) Food Drive: November 18 at Roseburg Bi-Mart

3. Host a Food or Fund Drive

Hosting a drive through your workplace, school, or faith community is a powerful way to help. UCAN provides food collection barrels and a toolkit to guide you through the process. To learn more or get started, contact Valerie Gordon, Food Bank Program Manager, at Valerie.Gordon@ucancap.org or call (541) 492-3518.

If You Need Food

If you or someone you know needs food assistance, you can find information about local sources of food at: <http://www.ucancap.org/food-pantries>

UCAN's Role in Feeding Douglas County

UCAN's Douglas County Regional Food Bank serves as the backbone of the County's Emergency Food Network. While we do provide some food directly to remote communities via our mobile pantry (The Outpost), our prime focus is sourcing, storing, and distributing food efficiently to the 15 local pantries, 5 meal sites and shelters, and community partners across the County. In FY25, UCAN distributed 1.86 million pounds of food, making sure food went to where it was needed most.

About UCAN

UCAN is the local community action and a non-profit agency serving Douglas and Josephine County and is dedicated to enhancing prosperity and well-being throughout our communities. Our programs and services address critical issues such as housing and homelessness, food security, energy efficiency, child development, family well-being, and health. Our mission is simple yet profound: "Creating solutions to poverty, improving lives in our community." At UCAN, we envision a future where every resident we serve has access to the resources and opportunities necessary to realize their full social, civic, and economic potential. Our goal is to empower individuals to secure their lives and actively participate in building stronger communities. Learn more at www.ucancap.org

