



OREGON'S SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

Coronavirus Resources: Nutrition

Sen. Merkley, using his leadership position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, fought hard to make sure the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief funding stabilizes families, workers, small businesses, housing, education, agriculture, and health care. As these resources are distributed, Sen. Merkley's office will keep Oregonians up to date on what in the bill helps individuals and communities, and how to access the resources. He will continue to fight to make sure much-needed aid gets to the people who need it most.

Coronavirus relief to help keep food on the table for Oregonians:

As the top Democrat on the Agriculture and Rural Development Subcommittee, which funds nutrition programs, Sen. Merkley led efforts for robust food assistance, including:

Emergency Funding for Nutrition Assistance Programs

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: The bill includes \$15.5 billion in additional funding for SNAP (also known as food stamps) to ensure all Americans, including seniors and children, receive the food they need.
- Child Nutrition Programs: The bill includes \$8.8 billion in additional funding for Child Nutrition Programs in order to ensure children receive meals while school is not in session.
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: The bill provides \$100 million to guarantee participants of SNAP on Indian Reservations receive much-needed food and to ensure the facilities have the capacity to meet increased needs.
- Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico and the Territories: The bill provides \$200 million for food assistance to Puerto Rico and the territories to ensure these citizens receive more support during this COVID crisis.
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): The bill provides \$450 million for the TEFAP program. As incomes fall, food banks have seen increased needs. These funds help food banks continue to assist those Americans most in need.
- Administration for Community Living (ACL): The bill includes \$955 million for ACL to support nutrition programs, home and community-based services, support for family caregivers, and expand oversight and protections for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Flexibility for Nutrition Assistance Programs

- Allows for 100 percent transfer authority between Older Americans Act home-delivered and congregate meal program funding for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Clarifies the meaning of "homebound" to include individuals who are practicing social distancing due to COVID-19.
- Waives nutrition requirements for OAA meal programs during the public health emergency related to COVID-19 to ensure seniors can get meals in case certain food options are not available.

For updates: Visit merkley.senate.gov/coronavirus for updates on these and other resources as the relief bills are implemented.