

Oregon Housing and Community Services Department

Commodity Assistance (TEFAP)

Funding from ARRA

For More Information

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Program Overview

Under the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) buys food, including processing and packaging, and ships it to the states. The amount received by each state depends on its low-income and unemployed population. State agencies work out details of administration and distribution. Further, state agencies select local organizations that either directly distribute to households or serve meals, or distribute to other local organizations that perform these functions. States in turn provide the food to local agencies that they have selected, usually food banks, which in turn, distribute the food to soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public. OHCS contracts with the Oregon Food Bank to perform these activities.

ARRA Funding

Nationally, \$150 million was awarded for TEFAP through ARRA:

- \$100 million for commodity acquisition; and
- \$50 million for administrative functions related to the acquisition of the commodities.

OHCS will receive \$626,014 for TEFAP administration. The first part of this funding (\$313,007) was made available in April 2009. An additional \$1.25 million of commodities was made available for Oregon directly from USDA in April 2009. These commodities will be distributed through the Oregon Food Bank network.

Eligibility

Each state sets criteria for determining what households are eligible to receive food for home consumption. Income standards may, at the state's discretion, be met through participation in other existing federal, state, or local food, health, or welfare programs for which eligibility is based on income. States can adjust the income criteria in order to ensure that assistance is provided only to those households most in need. However, recipients of prepared meals are considered to be needy and are not subject to a means test.

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Other Requirements/Criteria

Guidelines for ARRA TEFAP funding can be found at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/recovery/recovery-tefap.htm>

Other federal requirements for TEFAP can be found on the USDA website at:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/Policy/tefap_policies.htm

Implementation Process/Steps

This funding will provide USDA commodities to hungry Oregonians through the Oregon Food Bank Network.

Additional ARRA Commodity Distribution Program information:

- 50% of administration funds are to be spent by September 30, 2009.
- 100% of administration funds are to be spent by September 30, 2010.

Last updated 4/10/09

OHCS is the state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for lower income Oregonians. The agency also administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless and energy assistance community service programs.



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