



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of Self Sufficiency Programs

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April 29, 2021

Dr. Mallory Koenings
Dr. Helen Chipman
National Program Leaders
The Gus Schumacher Nutrition
Incentive Program RFA



Dear Dr. Mallory Koenings and Dr Helen Chipman:

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) in Oregon fully supports the Community Development Corporation of Oregon (known as the Rockwood CDC) for funding through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) offered by USDA and NIFA.

To intentionally expand SNAP and better reach low income BIPOC communities, we recognize the need to support community-based efforts such as the Rockwood CDC's support of local and regional producers, vending spaces, and culturally specific outreach and marketing. To best increase access to culturally specific foods at farmers markets and support growers that may not have access to the business infrastructure needed to receive SNAP funds, deliberate efforts such as this pilot project are needed.

Rockwood CDC and the coalition it formed; the Rockwood Food Systems Collaborative aims to attain better health outcomes, equity and prosperity for Oregon's poorest and most diverse region. Despite the bustling metropolis, Rockwood is home to some of the best growing conditions in the nation. Rockwood is also home to The Sunrise Farmer's Market. A market in its infancy as it unfolds in its first year. Support of this new market would allow a co-op of under-resourced growers from a variety of ethnic groups to produce food for thousands of hungry families from many backgrounds.

Often, farmers markets premium costs and unrecognizable foods are limiting access for BIPOC communities. The BIPOC community, particularly immigrants and refugees, may struggle to sell their produce to typical market patrons. The Rockwood CDC project will support the development of skills among members of marginalized communities and increase opportunities for BIPOC vendors to compete in higher end farmers markets.

With the submission of this letter, ODHS is agreeing to support the program by promoting the program in ODHS offices including outreach material for SNAP recipients and connecting this vital work with our SNAP Outreach and Nutrition Education plans.

The Oregon SNAP Program supports your application for maximizing the funding through this grant request and commits to strengthening our ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,
Heather Miles

Heather Miles
SNAP Program Manager
Oregon Department of Human Services

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