

Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Governor



## THE CHILDHOOD HUNGER INITIATIVE

**What is it?** The Childhood Hunger Initiative is a group of health care professionals, anti-hunger advocates and other interested Oregonians, working together to educate the medical community, policy makers, and the general public about the medical, developmental and psycho-social impacts of childhood food insecurity and hunger. We believe that childhood hunger must be understood as a public health issue, not simply a social issue.

**When was it established?** The Childhood hunger Initiative emerged from a workshop entitled, “The Medical and Social Impacts of Childhood Hunger,” held at Oregon Food Bank on November 12, 2004. The workshop organizers created the Initiative as a means of carrying forward the workshop’s goals.

**What are the projects the group is working on?** The Childhood Hunger Initiative is currently working on: 1) creating a survey tool for health care providers on identification of food insecurity in pediatric patients; 2) conducting focus groups in the community regarding the impact of hunger on medical and health care issues; 3) providing educational opportunities for the medical community on the subject of childhood hunger; 4) establishing a speakers bureau of health professionals to educate citizens and lawmakers about the importance of constructive public policies to improve the lives of under-nourished children; and 5) developing educational and outreach materials for distribution to at-risk families in health care and community settings.

**Is it affiliated with any organizations?** The Childhood Hunger Initiative is a collaborative effort which invites the participation of concerned individuals from many organizations. So far, its members have drawn from Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Health Sciences University, Oregon State University Extension, Providence Health System and Kaiser Permanente.

**When and where does it meet?** The Child Hunger Initiative meets monthly at Interstate Kaiser Permanente. At each meeting one or two member’s present information about childhood hunger and its impacts, and the group discusses action steps suggested by the presentations and/or work in progress. Members are encouraged to bring interested friends and colleagues.

**Would you like to join us?** Please email Anne Hoisington ([Anne.Hoisington@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Anne.Hoisington@oregonstate.edu)) and give her your name (with title, if applicable) email address and phone number. Optional: brief description of your professional background. You will then become a member of our listserv, enabling you to share resources with the group; you will also receive meeting invitations, updates on our activities, links to journal articles of interest, etc.

### Contacts

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