

RHIP and COVID-19 MINI-GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

**COVID-19 Final Report for Council on Aging for Central Oregon (RHIP)
“Food for Additional Senior Drive-Through Meals”
Reviewed by the Address Poverty and Enhance Self-Sufficiency Workgroup**

Summary of Results:

- This project focused on supporting the expanded Congregate Dining service, so that more older adults could receive additional food; transitioning from a sit-down meal once per week to a drive-through Grab-N-Go meal offered 3 times per week.
- The goal of this program is improving food security for older adults by providing no-cost well-balanced meals, improving nutrition, and creating a social connection.
- We are handing out our meals in a safe, socially-distant manner and have also put other practices in place, like reassurance calls and other means of connection to help reduce senior isolation.
- The core of our services remains focused on helping keep the older adults in our community safe and well-fed.
- Thank you for contributing to our program's success and the growing number of meals served to older adults throughout Central Oregon.
- The generous funds provided covered the cost of food for 1,250 of these meals – approximately 12% of the total meals (10,302) provided in Jan and Feb 2021.

Story with Quote:

Our Congregate Dining service provides food and connection for all who attend and the impact goes beyond food and nutrition. Providing meals and an opportunity to connect and feel seen has an enormous impact on the well-being of our most vulnerable members of our community. One of our regular Congregate Dining clients from Bend left this note for the staff and volunteers that provide this necessary service:

“I feel heard. I feel cared about. I feel loved. I feel thankful. I’m grateful for our community here, we have each other. Thanks for all the loving, kindness.”