



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

oregonenergyfund.org/winternews

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“The need is pressing. So why doesn’t somebody do something about it? And then I realized...I was somebody.”

- Victor Atiyeh, Founding Director Emeritus

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear friends,

It’s been 30 years since Victor Atiyeh first sat down with a board of community members and decided to take on Oregon’s utility hardship crisis. The numbers were, and are, sobering. 27% of Oregonians struggle to pay their bills annually - twice the rate of food insecurity. Thousands spend up to a quarter of their income on energy, facing hunger, illness, and homelessness as a result. Yet in 1989, there was nowhere to turn for help.

The solution: a nonprofit that would work with community agencies and local utilities across Oregon to bring energy assistance to families in need. Its mission: **that no one should be in the dark**. Since 1989, Oregon Energy Fund has helped more than 300,000 people pay their bills, and provided support and guidance to countless others. Throughout, we’ve been guided by the same values: **compassion** for those less fortunate, **collaboration** with like-minded Oregonians, and **innovation** to address a widespread need.

I’m especially proud of the work we’ve accomplished this year. In March, we officially launched our Senior Discount Program with Meals on Wheels People and Portland General Electric. So far, this groundbreaking collaboration has provided relief to nearly 100 seniors in the Portland area, and is only growing.

We expanded our partnerships to include the Latino Network, the Native American Youth & Family Center, and the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization, and tripled our funding to 11 counties in eastern Oregon. We provided energy assistance to furloughed workers during the government shutdown in January, and traveled to the National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition conference in May to accept the Victorine Q. Adams Innovation Award.

Together, we raised more than \$1 million and assisted more than 3,000 Oregonians in 2019. I can’t tell you how inspired I am by your support, and what we’ve been able to do with it. Year after year, we hear from recipients who tell us how energy assistance let them heat **and** feed their family, and not have to choose. How our funds gave them the hope they needed to get through the winter. Many are donors now, giving back to help others. Your support matters. It goes and goes and goes.

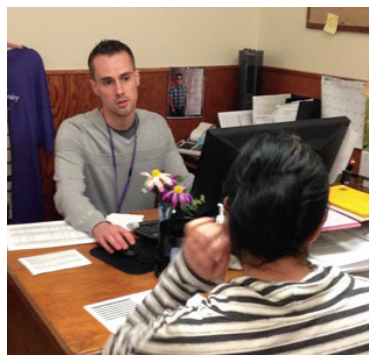
As the year winds down, I’ve been reflecting on our work as an organization: where we’ve come from, where we’re going next. Can we prevent Oregonians from falling into crisis in the first place? Can we develop programs to help people achieve long-term energy stability? And can we help tackle the pressing issues of our time, like homelessness and climate change?

These are difficult, complex questions, and there’s not one solution. But I keep coming back to Victor Atiyeh, and how he wished somebody would do something - until he realized he **was** somebody. So am I. So are you. Each of us holds a piece of the answer, the ability to make a difference in someone’s life - to work towards an Oregon where no family has to brave a winter night without light or heat. We’ve reached where we are today thanks to you, our incredible family. And if we continue to work together, the future is bright indeed.



Brian Allbritton
Executive Director





30 YEARS OF POWERING LIVES

Recipients, donors, and friends share what Oregon Energy Fund has meant to them over the last three decades.

"Without heat, you don't have anything. You can't cook. The refrigerator doesn't work. And how was my daughter supposed to do her homework without lights? I appreciate the community looking out for people who need help. That's a great community."

- Cheryl, OEF recipient

"We don't ask for much and take great pride in making it on our own. But when we really needed the help, OEF was there to help us."

- Rachel, OEF recipient

"I saw how resolving one problem can help people stabilize their lives and gain control over other issues. That's why I'm glad OEF is here to help."

- James, former case manager

We really appreciate the work & financial help the Home Energy Assistance program does for those in need.

We remember, well, how we were helped by the program.

Keep up the wonderful work you do in trying to keep people warm during the winter. Thanks!

"The assistance from OEF allowed us to keep our electricity and our gas going, and it enabled us to pay doctor bills."

- Diana, OEF recipient

"OEF has opened my eyes and heart to people who can't count on what I take for granted: I turn up the thermostat and the heat comes on. I hit a switch and the lights come on. I wish I could give more. But I'll keep giving."

- Steven, OEF donor

"I'm amazed at the extent of OEF's aid to communities across Oregon, and your commitment to helping those in need. Thank you for your wonderful work helping communities stay warm and keep the lights on."

- Teresa, OEF donor

"My husband developed a life-threatening medical condition that temporarily put him out of work. The only income we had was his small military pension. Oregon Energy Fund helped cover our bill until he could recover and find a new job."

- OEF recipient

"I am a past recipient, and if I donate another 30 years I'll not come close to how important that aid was to me then. (5 children, winter ahead, no hope, very little money.) Thank you for that. I hope I can keep helping you help others. It's so very important."

- Shannon, OEF donor

"It felt like a Mack Truck being lifted off of me. It was one less thing I had to worry about, knowing that when we got home, we'd be going home to a warm house, and I could cook for my daughter and bathe her, and we could go to sleep without that worry."

- Renauda, OEF recipient

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY?
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR IT!**

Please share it with us at OregonEnergyFund.org/Be-Involved or send to info@oregonenergyfund.org.

THE YEAR
IN NUMBERS
\$1.46 MILLION
IN REVENUE

1,233
HOUSEHOLDS

3,034
INDIVIDUALS

1,032
CHILDREN

480
SENIORS

472
DISABLED



1 in 5

Oregon families sacrifice basic needs like food, rent, or medicine to pay for energy each year.

COAST
76 Households
189 Individuals
74 Children
24 Seniors
43 Disabled

MID-VALLEY
276 Households
626 Individuals
193 Children
114 Seniors
106 Disabled

SOUTHERN
202 Households
498 Individuals
166 Children
88 Seniors
89 Disabled

PORTLAND METRO
547 Households
1,393 Individuals
477 Children
207 Seniors
181 Disabled

COLUMBIA GORGE
7 Households
24 Individuals
13 Children
3 Seniors

*“I’m grateful for my warm home.”
- OEF Recipient*

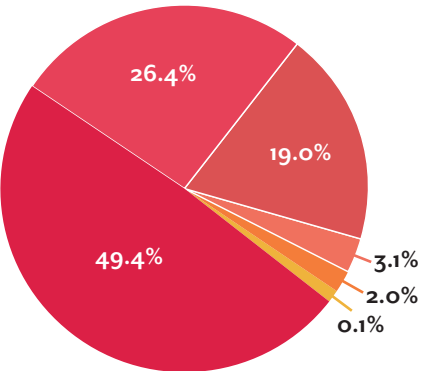
CENTRAL
90 Households
225 Individuals
80 Children
30 Seniors
31 Disabled

EASTERN
35 Households
79 Individuals
29 Children
14 Seniors
22 Disabled



“Your program has changed my life. Thank you.” - Kathy, OEF Recipient

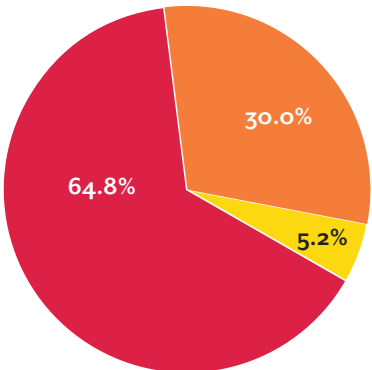
FUNDING SOURCES



49.4% Individuals & Businesses
26.4% Utility Partners
19.0% Grants
3.1% Non-Cash - Unrealized Gain on Investments
2.0% Interest Earnings
0.1% Oil Program

64.8% Direct Funding to Energy Assistance
30.0% Fundraising
5.2% Management

SPENDING



PARTNER AGENCIES

- ACCESS
- Care, Inc.
- Care to Share
- Catholic Community Services of Lane County
- Clatsop Community Action
- Community Action Organization
- Community Action Program of East Central Oregon
- Community in Action
- Community Connection of NE Oregon
- Community Services Consortium
- Harney County Senior & Community Services Center
- Human Solutions, Inc.
- Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)
- Impact NW
- Klamath & Lake Community Action Services
- Latino Network
- Mid-Columbia Community Action Council, Inc.
- Native American Youth & Family Center (NAYA)
- NeighborImpact
- Oregon Coast Community Action
- The Salvation Army
 - Hillsboro
 - Klamath Falls
 - McMinnville
 - Medford
 - Salem
- Sandy Community Action Center
- Self Enhancement, Inc.
- SnowCAP
- Society of St. Vincent DePaul
 - Bend
 - Portland
 - Rogue Valley
 - St. Mary’s Vernonia
 - St. Matthew Conference
- UCAN
- Yamhill Community Action Partnership



THANK YOU, DONORS!

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OEF TRIPLES AID TO UNDERSERVED OREGON COMMUNITIES

Like many things, utility hardship is not distributed evenly. Rural areas are more energy burdened than cities, but often lack the equivalent funds and resources. People of color also have higher energy burden rates than average, with 74% of Oregon's Native population facing a severe energy burden.

Here at OEF, we strive to support overburdened and underserved communities such as these. And this winter, we're pleased to provide a meaningful increase of funds to both of these groups.

The need in rural Oregon is particularly great. In remote Malheur County nearly 50% of all households are severely energy burdened - double the statewide average. Rural families also face a harsher level of hardship, with the poorest homes forced to devote nearly 40% of their income to energy. But small populations and low donor rates mean these areas typically receive only meager funding.

To address this disparity, OEF plans to increase energy assistance funds to 11 eastern Oregon counties: Baker, Grant, Gilliam, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation, we'll be able to triple our

overall funding in this area, with the most underserved counties receiving five times more aid than last year. This will let us support around 200 additional households across the region, allowing them to devote more of their resources to food, rent, and medicine.

Additionally, OEF has received a \$20,000 grant from CareOregon, which will support Oregon Health Plan members and aims to prevent health problems among households of color. As reported in our Fall newsletter, energy burdened families often face a high risk of illness, including respiratory diseases, heart problems, hunger, and depression.

This grant will double our funds to two of our Portland-area partners, Latino Network and the Native American Youth & Family Center, and act to prevent poor health and childhood trauma. Both organizations were selected for the level of need among their two populations, as well as their dedicated outreach to families. Last year, for example, 2/3rds of Latino Network's OEF recipients were children.

Both grants will greatly increase our ability to support historically underserved communities, ensuring families can live healthy and productive lives. **Thanks to our funders for their support!**