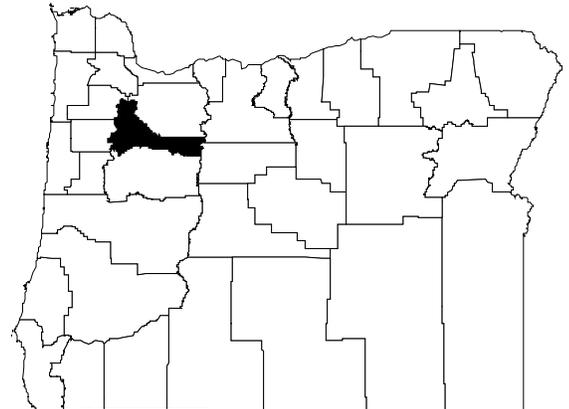




## Marion-Polk Food Share

### Community Profile

County Marion  
 City Salem  
 Population 404,026



### Assignment

Organization Marion-Polk Food Share  
 Supervisor Lexi Stickel  
 RARE Member Taylor West

#### About Marion County Community Services

Since 1987, Marion-Polk Food Share (MPFS) has been “leading the fight to end hunger in Marion and Polk counties...because no one should be hungry.” MPFS collects and distributes nutritious emergency food, which is delivered to people requiring emergency food assistance through a network of 109 nonprofit hunger-relief partners and agencies in our service area.

Taylor will focus on three main projects. The first is planning a regional Food Summit that builds upon previous regional organizing efforts raise awareness and momentum for effective community food system work throughout Marion and Polk counties. The second project is focused on continuing food systems planning with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) with the goal of gaining a better understanding of the history, assets, challenges, and opportunities in their food system. The third project is community food organizing in the communities of Mill City and Detroit. Taylor hopes to organize and facilitate two FEAST workshops with the objective of mobilizing communities to make improvements to the food system based on their expert knowledge of the communities and its unique needs.



#### Meet Taylor West

- B.S. in Environmental Studies, minors in Economics and Anthropology – University of Oregon
- People may be surprised when they learn that I enjoy spending time listening to rap music and learning from hip hop as a powerful form of black cultural expression. Historically, every community generates artistic strategies that are directly shaped by social and political forces, and also aim to critique those very systems. For African-Americans in the 1970s, hip hop emerged as a vessel for reflecting on the economic disparities and political context that disrupted the social fabric of urban communities, while also highlighting black cultural priorities deeply embedded in society.
- Planning the Environmental Studies Program commencement ceremony is one of the most rewarding aspects of my current job as Undergraduate Coordinator, as I get to celebrate the accomplishments of the students I usher through the educational expedition.