Southeast Oregon Regional Food Bank (ARRA)

Community Profile

Population 31,620
Location Ontario

Position Description

Sponsor Southeast Oregon Regional Food Bank
Supervisor Peter Lawson, Branch Coordinator

Assignment Through a grant from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, the Oregon Food Bank is sponsoring five food systems projects led by RARE participants in five counties throughout the state. While each community has identified different needs, all five food systems planning positions include the following: a two-part community foods assessment, coordination and facilitation of a community food system event, and the participant will act as a liaison between the Regional Food Bank and the local community promoting “seed to table” style discussions.

The RARE participant is focusing on three food security issues recently identified by the Oregon Community Food Bank. Specifically, the participant is supporting the community food forum by increasing awareness and utilization of local food assets; providing consumers with information about and access to local food and producers; and facilitating a coalition that builds upon recommendations and action-steps. Additionally, the participant is increasing the overall number of food projects that engage and empower communities to become more food secure. Finally, the participant is working with outreach staff to build awareness and increase individual access to food assistance with a focus on Latino and senior populations.

RARE Participant

Chloe Rico grew up in Portland, Maine and graduated from Fordham University with a BS in International Political Economy she also studied Spanish and Literature. Prior to moving to Oregon, Chloe worked for Los Ninos International, a community development organization located on the Mexican-American border. Primarily, she worked for the service-learning program facilitating projects for United States high school students to serve Mexican border communities. Chloe is interested in expanding local food system education to Hispanic and Latino populations.