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Food Stamps, Cash Assistance to Oregon Families Continues to Increase

July figures released from the Oregon Department of Human Services today show that food stamp and cash assistance to Oregon families continues to increase. A total of 624,824 Oregonians received food stamps in July, a 29.5% increase in demand over one year ago. Similarly, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance program has seen a 24.1% increase in demand over last year.

"These programs continue to provide support to help Oregon's families in need." said Erinn Kelley-Siel, Assistant Director of Children, Adults and Families. "Food stamps and cash assistance help families remain stable and safe, and that is very important as we head into a second year of these hard times."

According to national economists, the economic downturn in Oregon began about one year ago, and today's data from DHS along with July's unemployment figure of 11.9% (twice what it was in July 2008) help tell the story of where we are today. Currently one in six Oregonians receive food stamp assistance to help make ends meet.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, provides cash assistance to low income families so children can be cared for in their own homes. TANF builds personal responsibility and self reliance through job preparation and on-the-job training. In order to receive benefits, with very few exceptions, TANF recipients must participate in a jobs training program.

The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (recently renamed SNAP) provides food stamps benefits to help low income Oregonians buy the food they need for good health. These benefits are meant to be in addition to an individual's monthly food budget. SNAP benefits are available to Oregonians who are at or below 185

percent of the federal poverty level. Benefits are determined based on income and are distributed on a sliding scale.

To learn if you might be eligible for Food Stamps, TANF, Oregon Health Plan or other potential services in your area, visit your local DHS Food Stamps office. You may also explore your potential eligibility for programs by visiting the Oregon Helps Web site: www.oregonhelps.org/. To download applications for TANF and food stamps, go to: www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/.

DHS also partners with SafeNet to help people to find local resources such as local food pantries or other assistance. The number is 800-SAFENET (800-723-3638). Local information is shown in the chart below:

	<i>Oregon families receiving cash assistance (TANF) July 2009</i>	<i>% increase over July 2008</i>	<i>Oregonians (individuals) receiving food stamps (SNAP) July 2009</i>	<i>% increase over July 2008</i>
District 1 (Clatsop, Columbia & Tillamook)	413	14.4%	17,304	34.3%
District 2 (Multnomah)	7,055	26.1%	124,650	29.9%
District 3 (Polk, Marion, Yamhill)	4,254	29.7%	91,827	27.6%
District 4 (Benton, Lincoln, Linn)	1,349	10.0%	40,787	27.8%
District 5 (Lane)	1,957	21.7%	66,245	27.4%
District 6 (Douglas)	840	-0.4%	22,858	22.7%
District 7 (Coos, Curry)	667	18.1%	17,631	23.0%
District 8 (Jackson, Josephine)	2,016	26.3%	59,433	28.1%
District 9 (Hood River, Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler)	186	-8.4%	8,011	17.8%
District 10 (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson)	1,001	24.3%	36,002	38.9%
District 11 (Klamath, Lake)	366	13.7%	15,630	22.4%
District 12 (Morrow, Umatilla)	474	12.3%	15,646	16.4%
District 13 (Baker, Union, Wallowa)	231	19.7%	8,164	21.3%
District 14 (Grant, Harney, Malheur)	173	3.6%	9,379	21.3%
District 15 (Clackamas)	1,290	22.3%	36,778	29.1%
District 16 (Washington)	2,347	46.5%	55,019	41.0%
STATE TOTAL	24,619	24.1%	624,824	29.5%