



# SOUTHERN OREGON COALITION FOR RACIAL EQUITY

## FREE MOBILE MEALS

### Project Overview

Since October 2020, SOEquity has been sponsoring free meal distribution at a local public park every single day. In order to expand this program, ensure COVID-19 compliancy, reach a broader clientele, and better serve the community as a whole, we are looking to purchase a viable food truck. Shifting from serving meals in a single, central location to having mobile serving and delivery capacity would create a more equitable system and further the SOEquity mission.

### Project Details

#### Relationship with Rogue Food Unite:

We are currently partnered with the organization [Rogue Food Unites](#) to provide meals. They work with local restaurants to cook, package, and deliver free meals for the community. As of November 17, 2020 RFU is delivering 85 lunches to Hawthorne Park in downtown Medford where community volunteers distribute these meals on a daily basis. We plan to continue this relationship with RFU at the onset of the project launch.

#### Benefit to the Community:

In Jackson County, Oregon, 13.3% of adults are considered food insecure—meaning they do not have adequate access to reliable, healthy food. This is higher than the Oregon average and, in Jackson County, children are disproportionately affected by food insecurity\*. An annual count of unhoused individuals in Jackson County shows that we are home to up to 1,049 unhoused individuals\*\*. A large population of the unhoused community lives in or near Hawthorne Park, which is why our organization chose this site to distribute meals. However, having a functioning food truck would allow us to keep these meals warm for a longer period of time and distribute more meals to other communities of houseless people, low-income families, and senior citizens. Shifting from a small set up at the park to a mobile, more contained method of distribution would also allow us to minimize waste and eliminate excess litter and loitering within Hawthorne Park.

#### Short Term Goals:

At the onset of this project, we are hoping to continue our relationship with Rogue Food Unites and increase our distribution from 85 meals per day to 200 meals per day, expanding our reach to the larger community.

#### Long Term Goals:

As we build this program, it is our long-term goal to create these meals with the help of a network of volunteers in a commercial food truck kitchen. While the overall goal will remain—to provide the meals free of cost to unhoused community members and those struggling with food insecurity—we want to offer a “Pay What You Can” model, so that community members who CAN afford to purchase food will be able to “pay it forward” and help support this project.

### Project Budget

Item	Initial Cost	Operating Cost per year
Food Truck	\$25,000	\$4,000
Licensing/Registration	\$2,000	\$1,000
Inventory	\$3,000	\$3,000

\*<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/587bc89edb29d69a1a2839f2/t/5d094984d709770001724050/1560889733545/JacksonFactSheet.pdf>

\*\* <https://www.accesshelps.org/news/jackson-county-annual-homeless-count-results/>