

RESTORING OREGON'S GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

...Because all Oregonians with disabilities should have access to food, shelter, and medical care.

General Assistance would provide a temporary monthly cash grant to childless individuals with disabilities to cover basic necessities while they apply for federal SSI/SSDI benefits.

Yes! I support restoring Oregon's General Assistance (GA) Program because...

- √ **General Assistance is necessary** – Oregon currently has no safety net for people with disabilities as they pursue federal benefits. Since GA funding was cut in the last recession, thousands of individuals have been left (literally) in the cold with no means to cover their basic needs.
- √ **General Assistance is cost-effective** – On-going program costs for GA is ~ 5 million (not including health care); nearly 70 percent of this cost is reimbursed by the federal government.
- √ **Our current system is ineffective and costly** – The average application time for SSI/SSDI is one – three years. Without assistance during this time, many individuals end up in emergency rooms, jails and shelters, likely costing more than what taxpayers would pay for GA.
- √ **Restoring General Assistance is the right thing to do** – Supporting those with disabilities in our community is simply the right thing to do.

With this endorsement, I/we agree to the following actions to support restoring Oregon's General Assistance Program.*

_____ **Yes!** I would like to add my name to the Coalition for Restoring General Assistance.

_____ **Yes!** I will share information about restoring GA with my network/organization.

_____ **Yes!** I can provide testimony, stories, and/or quotes in support of GA.

_____ **Yes!** I would like to be involved at a leadership level in this Coalition.

Name (printed)

Signature

Name of organization (if this is an organizational endorsement)

Email Address

Phone Number

**Please return (fax or mail) this completed form to:
Oregon Food Bank
FAX: 503-282-0922 or 7900 NE 33rd Drive, Portland, OR 97211**

For more information, contact Stephanie Tama-Sweet at 503-282-0555 ext. 243 or stama-sweet@oregonfoodbank.org.