

Dear Legislators,

During this time, we need steady leadership that provides common sense and thought-through solutions to this crisis.

Part of this is ensuring that working families living paycheck to paycheck are able to stay housed.

As a shelter provider with 44 units in the Corvallis area, I encourage you, as well as your fellow lawmakers, to make the right choice by choosing to compensate shelter providers directly for rental payment assistance during this crisis. Several of the permanent rental assistance programs we encounter every day employ this same model of direct payment to the provider.

I understand that this situation puts many working families at risk. By making payment directly to landlords, we can cover our costs and keep providing safe and well maintained shelter for people affected.

By not doing this, there is no guarantee that money will get to us to cover our mortgages and other overhead. This would have a trickle down effect on the broader economy, as we pay utilities, insurance, property taxes, and maintenance and improvement costs for our properties, which is cycled through the economy.

I want to keep people in my units, so I am strongly urging you to direct payment to shelter providers to keep people housed.

Jim Starker