

Feb. 10, 2012

My name is Rachel Post and I am a Policy Advisor at Central City Concern in Portland, OR. I am here today to talk with you about TANF program. TANF provides families and children with basic assistance to help them make ends meet while they get back on their feet.

At Central City Concern in Portland, we provide comprehensive solutions to ending homelessness and achieving self sufficiency through our continuum of affordable housing options integrated with direct social services including healthcare, recovery and employment programming.

During the 2011 Legislative Session, the TANF JOBS program experienced very severe cuts at a time when more and more families are depending on this safety net to help them meet their very basic needs. These cuts have meant that families entering or exiting drug or alcohol treatment now have no access to child care or transportation services to help them attend treatment or seek work once they've completed treatment. For families working to rebuild their lives after receiving treatment for an addiction, these budget cuts have been devastating.

Residential and outpatient treatment for parents is a critical service for helping parents get back on their feet and keeping kids safe. Currently funding for this critical service comes from a variety of sources, and childcare is an important piece of the puzzle. For every \$1 the Legislature spends on childcare, Central City Concern leverages an additional \$2.50 in supportive care and services that help reunify and stabilize families. These leveraged dollars come from Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development, State, County and City General Fund.

Childcare is a critical building block for family success, and the lack of childcare that resulted from the cuts made in 2011 is proving devastating to families. While some funds have been identified to help families who were receiving treatment when childcare supports were ended, many more parents are unable to attend treatment for an addiction, or are unable to look for work after completing treatment. Without childcare, adults face overwhelming obstacles to making positive change in their lives and children are left unprepared for success in the K-12 school system. These cuts place these families at greater risks of using higher cost systems such as foster care, health care systems or homeless shelters. Removing these services that families rely on have drastic impacts on their daily lives as well as on the future prospects of these children and families.

At Central City Concern we know that with childcare, these families can exit TANF successfully. Nearly 80% of those families receiving addictions treatment combined with supported affordable housing and employment services successfully move on to their own permanent housing fully intact, clean and sober and self-sufficient. Here in Oregon, we know what works. We need to protect children and families as they take steps towards a more stable life, and ask that you restore funding for childcare and transportation for families receiving TANF.

Thank you for your time. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Budget Cuts Devastate Families Working to Rebuild Their Lives

For families working to rebuild their lives after receiving treatment for an addiction, budget cuts by the 2011 Legislature have been devastating. Cuts to the JOBS program through the Department of Human Services now mean that families entering or exiting treatment have no access to child care or transportation services to help them attend treatment or seek work once they've completed treatment. Here in Oregon, we know what works. These children and families need child care and transportation help from us, their neighbors. We need to protect children and families as they take steps towards a more stable life.



In 2010 alone, Central City Concern Family Alcohol & Drug Free Community Housing provided homes and supportive services to 109 parents and 147 children.

Central City Concern asks that \$2,250,000 be immediately restored to the TANF JOBS Program to cover child care for Oregon families seeking recovery and reunification with their children.

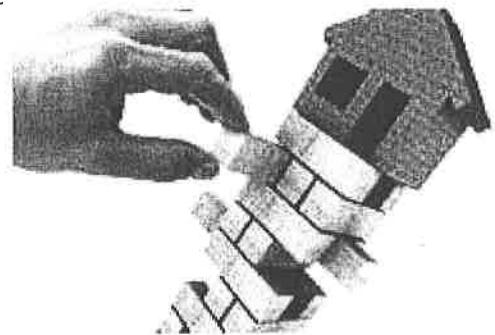
Over a 30 month period, CCC leveraged \$4,325,166¹ to match \$1,719,000 in JOBS Child Care funds. As a result of these investments:

- 145 families completed alcohol & drug treatment
- 46 parents found employment
- 33 families enrolled one or more parents in school
- 8 secured SSI or SSDI
- 18 parents received their GEDs
- 82 children moved home from foster care
- 80% of families graduated to permanent housing.

Child care is a critical building block for family success. Without child care, children and adults could

be forced to access other, more costly services such as foster care, health care systems or homeless shelters. Projected foster care costs for the 82 children returned to families in this program are \$21,816,100 for 10 years.²

Health care systems estimate these families cost over \$4,500,000 for 2 years if their addictions go untreated.³



For every \$1 spent on child care by the Legislature, Central City Concern leverages \$2.50 in supportive care and services that make reunification of families and family stability possible.

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¹ Combination of 6 months residential treatment at \$2,043,314, followed by outpatient treatment at \$196,200, 85 units of housing for two years at \$1,335,652 and supportive housing services at \$750,000. ² Based on DHS estimate of \$26,000 per year, per child, for foster care. ³ Costs estimated using CareOregon's 3+ high risk factors based on reducing their utilization of emergency services down to 2 risk factors. (2 years)