



Oregon's Poverty Fighting Network

CAPO Members

May 5, 2015

ACCESS

Clackamas County Social Services

Community Action Organization

Community Action Program
of East Central Oregon

Community Action Team

Community Connection
of Northeast Oregon

Community in Action CAA

Community Services Consortium

Klamath-Lake Community Action
Services

Lane County Human Services
Commission

Mid-Columbia Community Action
Council

Mid-Willamette Valley Community
Action Agency

Multnomah County Department of
County Human Services

NeighborImpact

Oregon Coast Community Action

Oregon Human Development Corp.

United Community Action Network

Yamhill Community Action Partnership

CAPO Board Officers

President: Jim Tierney

Vice President: Donna Bowman

Secretary/Treasurer: Barb
Higinbotham

Past President: Brenda Durbin

Member-At-Large: Margaret
Davidson

CAPO Executive Director

Tom Clancey-Burns

**Community Action Partnership
of Oregon**

www.caporegon.org

945 Columbia Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

phone: (503) 316-3951

fax: (503) 363-0113

TO: Chair Gelser and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

FROM: Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO)

IN RE: Support HB 2219

The Community Action Partnership of Oregon, representing the 19 community action agencies covering the entire geography of Oregon, supports HB 2219.

This bill convenes Human Services Agencies to attempt to formulate a consolidated application process for Oregonians seeking to access human services. CAPO supports the concept of streamlining applications in a manner that relieves citizens of the burden of processing duplicate paperwork in order to survive. These duplicative applications take time which might otherwise be devoted to employment, skill development or strengthening family bonds.

Our agencies feed people, warm people, house people and educate young children. We help people join the workforce and obtain education. At every step of the way, there is another form... and another...and another. Not only do our clients need to complete reams of paperwork containing the same information, we have to maintain all that paperwork in various files and forms to be audited, monitored and reviewed. I'm sure most of you have faced the aggravation of being asked to fill out the same form over and over--for school, for the IRS, to apply to colleges, and in other cases. It is stressful, and the last thing low-income families need is more stress.

Multiple applications are also problematic for funders, such as the state, because they stand in the way of compiling uniform information about the services that any one individual, household or family unit is





Oregon's Poverty Fighting Network

accessing. Because each application required to access each service is maintained in a separate database maintained by a separate agency, it is impossible to take a comprehensive look at how dollars are being spent across the entire spectrum of human services. A consolidated application form would be a step down the road toward a common data system. There are many obstacles to achieving a common data system, but the concept is worthy of a work group's attention.

Community Action Agencies stand ready to work collaboratively with this work group to move toward a common intake application. If we were to do this alone, it would mean we would have coordinated data not accessible to the state. Rather than create parallel systems, we would much rather work in tandem with the state, and therefore CAPO would be glad to be one of those "other entities" deemed necessary to be a part of this group, and would offer our services and representation.

We enthusiastically support this bill. We hope that you will support it, too.

For more information contact Ryan Fisher email: ryan@nwpublicaffairs.com cell: (503) 807-7525

