



Looking Glass
Community Services

Administrative Office

Looking Glass Programs

Counseling Services

- Counseling Program
- Adolescent Recovery Program
- Crisis Response Program

Runaway & Homeless Services

- Station 7 Program
- New Roads Program
- Rural Program

Education & Vocational Services

- Riverfront School & Career Center
- Center Point School
- New Roads School

Residential Services

- Pathways Boys Program
- Pathways Girls Program
- Intensive Treatment Services Program
- Stepping Stone Program
- Parole Revocation Diversion Program

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Steiner-Hayward and Representative Rayfield and Committee Members:

I am writing to you regarding the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services consideration of SB 5526.

Looking Glass Community Services in Eugene operates various behavioral health programs in partnership with local, state and federal government. Our programs are nationally-accredited, evidence-based, culturally-aware and trauma-informed. We have recently opened a Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) shelter/transition program for the Department of Human Services. This program is giving our vulnerable children a safe place to stabilize and successfully return to family/community settings. Most of you are probably aware that the state desperately needs programs like this to keep our children from being housed in hotels and offices.

The funding for DHS is key to provide safety and health for the children, adults and families in our state. Specifically funding the Policy Option Package for BRS contracts that is included in the Governor's Recommended Budget is critical! BRS Providers like Looking Glass are dependent on DHS contracts/funding to sustain services. More importantly, these services not only save and protect lives, they are highly successful and cost-effective. Many of our funds are matched by other government sources as well as private support. Cutting one dollar from these programs actually results in throwing away more than two.

It is also clear that treatment and prevention programs save money, typically at a one dollar invested saving more than four. This is easy to understand when we experience the much higher costs of unserved, unsupported children and families. They end up with worse/more expensive conditions such as severe mental health issues, drug abuse and other behavioral/emotional problems. Many end up in hospitals, jails or living on the streets.

Investing money in BRS programs is not just the right decision, it is a wise financial decision, especially in these times of budget shortfalls.

Thanks for your considerations, and all the work you do for the communities of Oregon!

Sincerely,

Craig Opperman, MSE

President/Chief Executive Officer

Looking Glass Community Services



A United Way Agency

Administrative Office
1790 W. 11th Ave.
Suite 200
Eugene, OR 97402
Phone: (541) 686-2688
Fax: (541) 345-7605