

From: [Rep Salinas](#)
To: [Nordlund Jan](#)
Subject: FW: Homestead Youth & Family Services and Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:20:53 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-lfa4udk0.png](#)

From: Elisa Doeblir-Irvine <doeblir@homesteadinc.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 10:58 AM
To: Sen Roblan <Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Holvey <Rep.PaulHolvey@oregonlegislature.gov>
Cc: Sen Boles <Sen.DenycBoles@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Boquist <Sen.BrianBoquist@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Findley <Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Gelser <Sen.SaraGelser@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Knopp <Sen.TimKnopp@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen MonnesAnderson <Sen.LaurieMonnesAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Steiner Hayward <Sen.ElizabethSteinerHayward@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Taylor <Sen.KathleenTaylor@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Barreto <Rep.GregBarreto@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Bynum <Rep.JanelleBynum@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Evans <Rep.PaulEvans@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Moore-Green <Rep.RaquelMooreGreen@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Salinas <Rep.AndreaSalinas@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Stark <Rep.DuaneStark@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Hansell <Sen.BillHansell@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Homestead Youth & Family Services and Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response

Senator Roblan, Senator Holvey and Esteemed Members of the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response,

These are unprecedented challenges facing Oregon, as we all well know. However, our state must continue to attend to those who have been caring for the most vulnerable among us with extremely limited resources as we as add COVID19 concerns to our plate.

Homestead Youth & Family Services, Inc. is a small non-profit agency that has been operating in Umatilla County for over 50 years serving at-risk adolescents in the custody of the Youth Authority (and DHS/SCF in earlier decades). We have learned to operate very conservatively while providing quality services to this young population. Despite the extremely daunting months ahead of us, we are committed to caring for these children but we must have your support.

Please remember our youngest and most vulnerable Oregonians and our dedicated employees as you vote yes.

Allocate \$5,000,000 to create immediate access to a fund that would

allocate up to \$125,000 to each provider to be able to:

- o Retain/maintain staffing ratios to ensure safety and compliance with state and federal requirements.
- o Temporarily pay staff who may not have the resources to be off without pay, and/or may have already used their Oregon Sick Leave and/or still may need to remain home.
- o Hire additional staff or incentivize staff to come to work to ensure safety and consistency with the children and youth.
- o Fund additional costs such as transportation due to school closures, food and other supplies for basic needs.
- **Allocate \$275,000 to purchase the necessary personal protective safety equipment (gloves, masks, etc.) and supplies (especially safety, hygiene and infection control products) with priority given to residential and shelter programs which have 24/7 needs.**
 - Approve HB4039 from the 2020 short session, providing critical assistance to keep Runaway Homeless Youth shelters open and operating, with an emergency clause to get the funding on the street immediately.
 - Approve the \$5 million BRS rate investment approved by the Ways and Means Committee this year, which will serve as an emergency lifeline to allow providers to retain their critical workers during this economic crisis, and keep the doors open to the state's most vulnerable children.
- **Language to require DHS, OHA, OYA, OHCS and county and local governments to work with providers to access space in case there's a need for quarantine or if a program must close for youth who are unaffiliated with OYA or CW. Direction that state funds can be used to pay for this emergency space for this purpose.**
- **Language directing CCOs, through their reserves, and both OYA and DHS to ensure full contract revenue if a program is required to reduce capacity or temporarily close.**

Wishing you the best health in the coming months,

Elisa

Elisa Doebler-Irvine, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Homestead Youth & Family Services, Inc.

