



Youth Progress

Opportunity Lives Here

Dear Co-Chairs,

I would like to urge you to support recommendations by the Oregon Alliance for Children, Families, and Communities to ensure that our children's system of care for at-risk and vulnerable children survives the current economic and health crisis.

In our agency, we provide young people in the juvenile justice system with safe and stable housing and opportunities to grow, learn, and succeed. Today, 28 of the most vulnerable and at-risk young people in our community are placed in our foster homes and 4 young people are in our residential program (which is staffed to serve up to 9 kids). These youth and their families are at high risk of homelessness, recidivism, and exposure, illness, and transmission of Covid 19; all impacting their individual and our public's safety.

We are facing a crisis with staff concerns, workforce challenges, and a potential financial catastrophe. We might have to close our residential program or take other actions such as laying off staff, or eventually closing our organization as we received 95% of our funding per client that we serve per day.

We urge you to allocate direct emergency funding to children's system providers to allow us to stabilize our workforce, hire temporary employees if needed, purchase critical PPE and infection control supplies, etc.

Our youth from across the state, who we serve in Multnomah County and our community need your assistance to weather this crisis.

Sincerely,

Nick Gallo, MSW
Executive Director
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