

Co-Chairs Paul Holvey and Arnie Roblan
Oregon Legislature
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs,

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

At Jackson Street Youth Services, we serve **youth experiencing homelessness and those at-risk of homelessness.**

Because of COVID-19, the positive outcomes we strive for with the youth more at risk than ever.

- **Stable housing** includes a safe and reliable place to call home.
- **Permanent connections** include ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks.
- **Education/employment** includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth.
- **Social-emotional well-being** includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

To ensure the ongoing safety of our community's most vulnerable youth, Jackson Street is continuing critical services for homeless youth.

- We are providing street outreach to youth ages 10 – 24 in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties by delivering food and supplies and making sure they are okay, taking care of themselves, and know that we are here for them.
- We are accepting youth ages 10 – 17 into our shelters in Corvallis and Albany but are focusing only on homeless youth and those in immediate risk of abuse and homelessness.

- Families in need of respite can still be supported over the phone with regular check-ins.
- Our Next Steps program is also an option for homeless youth ages 18 – 20 who want to participate in our transitional living program including housing, education, and employment support.

We are taking every precaution to keep the youth and our employees safe and healthy during this crisis.

Please support this critical work by allocating direct emergency funding to children's systems providers to allow us to stabilize our workforce, hire temporary workers if needed, and ensure we can meet basic needs for youth.

Thank you for all you are doing!

Ann Craig

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Ann Craig (she/her)
Executive Director
Jackson Street Youth Services

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Thursday, April 30th 2020

5:30-7:30pm

RSVP Online
