



Oregon Council on  
Developmental Disabilities

BETTER TOGETHER

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Feb. 12, 2019

To: Sen. Gelser, Chair, Senate Human Services Committee and Committee Members

From: Leslie Sutton, Policy Director, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

RE: Support for SB 491 – Move the Fairview Trust to the Oregon Community Foundation

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Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities works to create change so that people with intellectual and development disabilities (IDD) can live full lives as valued members of their communities. Two out of three of our Council members are self-advocates and family members.

Housing gives all people the opportunity to build better lives. To succeed, you need a safe, appropriate and affordable place to call home. When Oregon closed the Fairview Training Center, it created an innovative trust fund with the proceeds from the sale of the property. The trust was intended to support Oregonians experiencing IDD to succeed by ensuring community housing opportunities existed for them.

The Fairview Trust Advisory Committee has been working to create partnerships and build ideas on how the trust can meet the needs of the 28,000 Oregon currently serves in its Office of Developmental Disability Services program. We have spoken to family members and self-advocates, housing providers and IDD service providers around the state to find connection points, partnership opportunities and urgent areas where the trust could increase housing access.

We have worked to create partnerships to support increasing the number of affordable, accessible units in Oregon. The Advisory Committee has initiated partnerships where the trust would pay \$10,000 per unit to have increased adaptations added to an affordable unit at time of construction. These adaptations will increase the ability of someone who lives there to successfully utilize the unit and include, among other things, fully waterproof bathrooms, stoves that shut off when they smell smoke, and diverse wiring to allow for Smart Home technology. The Fairview Trust would be adding adaptations above the Americans with Disabilities standards. The Trust would also include support to develop referral pathways with local DD services case management entities and the housing provider to ensure that when the unit is vacant, someone using DD services moves in.

We have explored providing seed money to inspire new strategies and approaches to increase access to accessible, affordable housing. In specific cases where the trust has invested in a project, we have discussed supporting people who have found an affordable unit with first and last months' rent plus deposit. We hear from self-advocates and case managers that too often they may find a place to live only to lose it when they cannot pay first and last month's rent plus deposit. The trust could offer assistance in this area, in partnership with local resources.

The Fairview Trust Advisory Committee would like to see three amendments to the current draft of SB 491:

1. Require that the Oregon Community Foundation work with the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee in determining grant recommendations from the trust. The Fairview Trust Advisory Committee has strong membership from the DD and housing communities and is well positioned to work with Oregon Community Foundation in this role.
2. Explicitly stating the required members of the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee and how they are selected.
3. Matching the authority of the trust to current statute ORS 427.335 rather than only ORS 427.335(1) and (2) as currently drafted. This will allow greater flexibility in how the trust can be used and match the original intent of the trust which created ORS 427.335.

The Fairview Trust has strong partnerships that have supported restoring the trust to its original \$12 million rather than the existing \$6 million. In addition to our bill sponsors, these partners have also come forward to support SB 491 to move the trust to the Oregon Community Foundation. Our partners include: Neighborhood Partnerships, Network for Oregon Affordable Housing, Human Services Coalition of Oregon, Oregon Developmental Disability Coalition, Oregon Support Services Association, and the Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition.

Together with our partners and Oregon Community Foundation, we look forward to making affordable, accessible and appropriate housing a reality for Oregonians experiencing IDD because everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home.