

Senate Housing Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

April 5, 2019

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice-Chair Heard, Members of the Committee

I am writing to express our strong support for the 1-amendment to Senate Bill 820 (SB-820).

Hacienda Community Development Corporation (Hacienda CDC) is a Latino Community Development Corporation that strengthens families by providing affordable housing, homeownership support, economic advancement, and educational opportunities. Since 1992, our organization has been housing thousands of low-income community members, while providing them with the tools to succeed in our local economy through Youth and Family Services, Small Business Development and Economic Opportunity.

The Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance Program (OFA) is one of the most significant initiatives within our Economic Opportunity Department. This program has enabled hundreds of homeowners to keep their homes from being foreclosed due to difficult financial challenges. This has been entirely possible thanks to OFA, which was designed to precisely, to stabilize and keep together our communities and families. In 2018 alone, we supported 65 households to keep their homes, that means almost 200 people are still in their homes thanks to Hacienda's intervention and the existence of the OFA Program. Furthermore, we also counseled 132 households on Foreclosure Prevention to help them avoid a potential future foreclosure of the homes.

The OFA program is a fee-for-service program, which also enables Hacienda to provide meaningful employment and additional services to low-income communities. Investing in Foreclosure Prevention and Foreclosure avoidance is one of the best decision the State of Oregon has made. Keeping families in their homes means stability and healthier communities for the entire economy. I urge you to support this 1-amendment to SB-820, investing 1.24 million again on the OFA Program so we can continue helping families succeed and make Oregon a better place for all.

Should you have any questions, I will be available anytime to discuss more details regarding the many benefits that this program has provided to our wonderful communities in our beautiful State of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Ernesto Fonseca, PhD
Chief Executive Officer