



Washington County Homeless Education Network

**Banks•Beaverton•Forest Grove•Gaston•Hillsboro•Sherwood•Tigard-Tualatin School Districts
Community Partnerships Working Together To Create Change For Homeless Children & Families**

March 1, 2018

To Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon:

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting Oregon's most at-risk and vulnerable young people. As you continue to expand the Second Home program by applying for grant funding the Washington County Homeless Education Network supports your work in our community. As a consortium of local governments, businesses, nonprofits, civic and faith based organizations, we support the proposed expansion of the Second Home program to all 7 Washington County School Districts through a community-wide, collaborative effort. As educators we embrace the mission of Second Home to help stabilize housing, improve educational outcomes and ensure that at-risk and underserved youth remain in school through graduation and continue with their education through postsecondary opportunities. We know that in order to achieve these goals our homeless students must have stable housing and the Second Home program is one of the best long-term housing options available to our homeless youth.

We know that youth who grow up in poverty, with consistent housing instability are more likely than their peers to be at-risk for dropping out of high school and engaging in juvenile delinquency. They're less likely to continue with their education after graduation from high school and often remain in low wage earning, service sector jobs. Second Home provides an evidence-based support for youth that improves positive outcomes and can support students in developing and meeting graduation and postsecondary goals.

We believe Second Home is an invaluable community asset that improves positive social development and behaviors in youth. Your home providers help to prepare youth for higher education and careers by introducing them to experiences they may not be familiar with, helping them set academic and career goals and even using personal resources to help them connect with opportunities and resources they might not have had access to.

As a community partner to the Homeless Education Network in Washington County we respectfully support your ongoing grant requests in an effort to fund the expansion of the Second Home program in our community. We believe the funding of this program will save local, state and federal dollars over the long-term by reducing the rates of incarceration, boost student academic achievement and create positive outcomes for our youth and ultimately our communities. For youth facing barriers to achievement and opportunity due to homelessness, extreme poverty, social isolation and other complex circumstances there is one proven, evidence-based intervention: a loving and supportive home life. Second Home provides this for our homeless youth.



Washington County Homeless Education Network

**Banks•Beaverton•Forest Grove•Gaston•Hillsboro•Sherwood•Tigard-Tualatin School Districts
Community Partnerships Working Together To Create Change For Homeless Children & Families**

Thank you for your consideration of this request to change the lives of our local homeless students and youth.

Sincerely,

Banks School District, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison

Beaverton School District, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison

Forest Grove School District, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison

Gaston School District, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison

Hillsboro School District, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison

Sherwood School District, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison

Tigard Tualatin School District, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison