

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

February 14th, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak with you today.

I am Craig Opperman, President/CEO of Looking Glass Community Services in Lane County.

Looking Glass provides a comprehensive system of care with 12 programs for teens and young adults.

One of our core service areas specifically addresses the needs of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY).

Last year we provided services to over 1,000 RHY. These included basic safety net needs such as food, showers, clothing and shelter, along with education/school programs, mental health/alcohol and drug treatment, family therapy and family reunification, vocational training and job placement, and transitional/independent living programs.

Safe facilities are an essential foundation of our treatment. It is often thought that programs such as Looking Glass can provide services in old buildings or facilities that can be marginal. Quite the opposite is true. We use a "safety first" approach to our youth/clients, so facilities must meet all safety and current building and licensing codes and standards. And our young people in need deserve comfortable and welcoming environments.

The Looking Glass Station 7 Shelter is the only state licensed shelter for RHY in Lane County and the only nationally accredited youth shelter in the state of Oregon. That is a significant accomplishment, and also quite expensive to maintain. It is a vital service to the most vulnerable youth in Lane County. We provided 1,283 sheltered bed nights last year. That's 1,283 times we ensured that a young person was not assaulted, raped, trafficked, jailed, hospitalized, murdered or committed suicide. Yet we continually face a crisis in funding to maintain services and facilities.

Station 7 is in a beautiful residential home that was built in 1926. In 2010 the family that owned it sold the home to Looking Glass. We were able to make the purchase with Community Development Block Grant funds. Yet the required upgrades, such as fire suppression and sprinkler systems, asbestos abatement, ADA approved entry ramp, etc., to make it a youth shelter were more expensive than the property.

The New Roads Outreach and Day Services program is located immediately next door to Station 7. It was built in 1964 and purchased through fundraising. It also has to meet state licensing and our national accreditation standards.

Deferred maintenance and needed improvements are important to properly serve our youth. Funding provided to Looking Glass and our sister agencies throughout Oregon that provide these services would literally save lives as we divert youth from dangerous environments on the streets to safe, healing environments in our programs.

Thank you for consideration of our requests, and any support you can offer to the youth we serve.

Looking Glass Community Services

Critical Facility/Maintenance Needs – February 14, 2020

Station 7 – Remove Oil Tank/Install New HVAC	\$30,000
New Roads – Replace Roof	\$21,000
New Roads – Replace/Upgrade kitchen facilities	\$35,000
New Roads – Replace upstairs safety railings	\$6,000
New Roads – Repair/Replace flooring and carpeting	\$13,000
<u>New Roads – Replace Light Fixtures</u>	<u>\$6,000</u>
Sub Total	\$111,000
Station 7 Basement Remodel – Adds Capacity/ <u>Enhances Trafficking Prevention Program</u>	<u>\$130,000</u>
Total	\$241,000