



## THE GIVING TREE NW

April 9, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee

I write to you today on behalf of The Giving Tree in support of SB 5505, and the inclusion of \$250 million for affordable housing and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds.

The Giving Tree provides enhanced resident services and wraparound services to low resourced populations living in affordable housing. We develop programs focused on housing stability once unhoused clients move into housing. As a small private non-profit, we were able to pivot quickly when the pandemic started and continue to safely provide services for the properties we serve. Additionally, we expanded services to include other subsidized buildings in downtown Portland, establishing a delivered neighborhood food pantry and a culturally specific food pantry for Asian elders. Permanent supportive housing services are essential to reducing recidivism.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, Oregon was already experiencing a housing crisis, and too many of our neighbors and community members were experiencing housing instability. In the 2019-20 school year, over 21,000 kids experienced homelessness at some point during the year, with their families.

For our economy to recover, we must address our unhoused population. With additional resources, we can build housing and provide needed services across Oregon to provide safe and stable places to call home for members of our communities.

We urge your support for the inclusion of \$250 million for affordable housing and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds in SB 5505. Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Gloria Lee  
Executive Director