

As clergy and an advocate for economic justice for all Oregonians, I urge you to consider the needs of minimum and low-wage workers, and the many who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic, who are being increasingly left behind economically.

The Oregon state budget must provide real economic relief for these families. Even though there are billions of federal dollars being sent to Oregon, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) budget would experience additional cuts to vital programs in the first draft of the co-chairs' budget, a reduction of \$80 million. This is morally wrong when so many are in dire need.

We cannot continue to ask for immoral sacrifices from the poorest people and least paid workers. We need to invest in all people so they have a guaranteed safety net of adequate food, clothing and shelter for all in their family, as well as education, training and other supports people need to get and keep a job while keeping their family safe and thriving.

I urge you to increase funding in the Oregon 2021-23 Budget for vital services to low-income people.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rev. Connie Yost  
Member, Runaway Inequality Group  
President, Farm Worker Ministry Northwest