



# SafeSpace Facility Investment: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SERVING OREGON'S GILLIAM, HOOD RIVER, WASCO, and WHEELER COUNTIES



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## Purpose

A **permanent child abuse assessment facility** is needed to provide best-practice response to children showing signs of child abuse in the Columbia Gorge region. The Hood River-based SafeSpace facility will serve Oregon's children in Gilliam, Hood River, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties.

## Need

In the Columbia Gorge region, approximately **1,500 children per year** will likely experience child abuse, based on CDC estimates (1 in 7 children). SafeSpace anticipates **320 cases** will require the expertise in forensic interviewing and medical examination uniquely provided by a CAC (Child Advocacy Center). **Most Oregon regions have a permanent CAC facility; the Columbia Gorge region does not.**

## Urgency

COVID-19 has increased insecurity in families and isolated children in places where they are more vulnerable to abuse. We anticipate **an increase and intensity of child abuse cases** that will require the expertise and intervention of SafeSpace for years to come. **Every effort must be made to increase response time to signs of abuse and ensure access to best practice community response.**

## Inclusion

The SafeSpace Facility will be equally accessible and responsive to children from diverse family backgrounds. According to census data, **Latinx families constitute 32% of Hood River County's population, and 20% of nearby Wasco County.** The planned new facility will support a needed expansion of bilingual and culturally specific services.

## Facility Plan

SafeSpace plans to **purchase and renovate 4,000 sf of clinical space** in Hood River. The facility will sustain support for 320 children per year who show signs of abuse.

## Cost

**\$2,000,000** supports purchase of an existing clinical facility, plus renovation, (hard and soft costs), contingency and reserve fund for maintenance. These costs have been vetted by a community-based facility team of realtors and developers.

## Timing

With the requested investment, this project will be **completed during 2022-2023**.

## Sustainability

Children's Advocacy Centers are sustainable with contract support and earned income. A strong base of community support will augment services.

## Request

**\$2,000,000** to fully fund the project. An additional \$500,000 will be raised from private sector donors to expand services in the new facility.



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