

Good morning, we are Todos Juntos, a small but mighty non-profit organization located in 9 different schools in rural Clackamas County. We serve youth and their families by providing clubs, resources and programs at school and in the community. We give gratitude that the Health Equity funding has allowed us to serve over 1500 youth and their families in the last year in Estacada and Sandy. This funding creates the ability to have a full time staff member at 3 schools to assist students, run extra curricular activities and create bonding and connection between the students, the school staff and the communities.

We are currently being funded from your agency to have staff at Cedar Ridge middle school in Sandy and at Estacada Middle and High schools in Estacada. We have seen tremendous impact as both the families and the schools are quick to comment on the great work that is being done for these folks as a direct result of your funding. We have been able to connect students with resources, run specific small groups which allow the students to share and learn with peers and get better at advocating for themselves and make healthy life choices.

With additional funding, we could reach more families, create bonding and safety for more students and thus creating a safer community for all those who live there. We would also be able to hire more support staff to run the clubs and activities that bond students to their peers and community and help raise their self- esteem.

We respectfully request the investment of \$286M above the current service level for the OHA Public Health Modernization Budget, which includes \$100M for CBO's who are the lifeline to Oregon's most diverse and marginalized populations across the state.

We join our organization with the Community Health Equity Coalition which is made up of more than 80 community-based organizations who are collectively responding to the needs of more than 500,000 Oregonians.

We send our gratitude and respect for your service as you contemplate how to create a budget that will fairly help all. We appreciate all your dedication and the representation of all of us while you are considering this matter. Take care.

Sincerely,

Michelle Emery
Todos Juntos
Youth Program Director
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