

County Commissioners
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MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 14, 2024

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Subject: Marion County Supports Funding for the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center

Dear Members of Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes to express our support for the funding of the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center (GWOC). This vital project aims to provide essential resources and services to the residents of Woodburn, particularly those from low-income backgrounds.

The GWOC is set to deliver 50 low-income housing units alongside comprehensive wrap-around services for the community. Through the Integrated Services Delivery Model, the center will amplify community assets and reduce barriers to support.

Woodburn faces significant economic and social challenges. With 13.7% of its residents living in poverty and a per capita income well below the state average, the need for affordable housing and supportive services cannot be overstated. Additionally, the city's diverse population, with 57% identifying as Hispanic, requires culturally competent programs and facilities like those proposed by the GWOC.

GWOC will serve as a hub for various activities and services, including but not limited to early childhood education, senior center activities, community meals, skills training, and small business development. The inclusion of amenities such as an industrial kitchen, conference rooms, and outdoor spaces further underscores the Center's potential to meet the diverse needs of Woodburn residents.

It is evident that the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center will address pressing social and economic disparities and contribute to the overall well-being and vitality of the community. As Marion County Commissioners, we fully endorse this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cameron
Chair

Danielle Bethell
Commissioner

Colm Willis
Commissioner