

February 13, 2024

RE: Support for Clackamas County Children's Commission (CCCC) Funding Request

To Whom it May Concern,

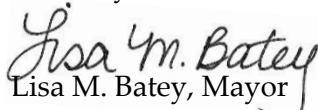
The Portland metro area has been identified as a childcare desert, with inadequate childcare opportunities for families. But Clackamas County has the most dire situation among the three metro-area counties, as shown [in this report prepared by researchers at Oregon State University](#).

We know that access to childcare is a problem for many families in the Milwaukie community – a problem exacerbated by the [recent decision of the Clackamas Board of County Commissioners](#)² in giving notice to the North Clackamas School District and the CCCC to vacate five classrooms used for pre-school in the Wichita Center by this summer.

Milwaukie is home to a former YMCA childcare center on Highway 224, which was shuttered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CCCC is in a position to purchase and renovate this center, with funding from the state. This site is ideally located near the center of our community and is served by public transportation.


It is essential that the CCCC be able to continue to offer quality care and education to our most vulnerable populations. Facilities funding and classroom space are the most pressing needs local Head Start programs face. The purchase of the YMCA would be a one-time investment that would bring significant benefit for the families in our community. We are excited by the potential for addressing these deficits and would greatly appreciate state support to make this dream a reality.

Sincerely,


Lisa M. Batey, Mayor


Adam Khosroabadi, Councilor


Robert Massey, Council President


Rebecca Stavenjord, Councilor

¹ Oregon's Child Care Deserts 2022 (chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://health.oregonstate.edu/sites/health.oregonstate.edu/files/early-learners/pdf/research/oregons_child_care_deserts_2022.pdf)

² Milwaukie Review Article: Wichita Center to 'remain a public service' despite Clackamas County's termination (January 29, 2024) https://www.milwaukiereview.com/news/wichita-center-to-remain-a-public-service-despite-clackamas-countys-termination/article_70ec1c4e-bc86-11ee-92cc-1fd17c4e09ce.html