



Friday, February 16, 2024

The Honorable Fred Girod
900 Court St NE, S-401
Salem, Oregon 97031

The Honorable Representative Paul Holvey
900 Court St NE, H-277
Salem, Oregon 97031

Dear Senator Girod and Representative Holvey

In 2024, the Oregon Head Start Association is working to ensure that every eligible family is provided an opportunity to enroll their child in a local Head Start program. In order to do this, we need more money for classroom space. We have identified Head Start programs that have more immediate needs, and incredible opportunities to secure great locations.

We are asking the legislature to invest **one-time funding** in projects that are ready now, and if funded, could have children in classrooms this fall. **We are requesting funding for four projects that total \$2,317,280.** In total, we could serve an additional 301 children **every year** with these investments, and provide additional services to families in these communities. Head Start locations could be used to serve foster children, and help families with WIC and DHS services.

Lake Oswego (Marylhurst Project): The Clackamas County Children's Commission (ClackCoKids) is working with the landowner, the Sisters of the Holy Names, to turn the Mayer Arts Building located at the old Marylhurst University in Lake Oswego, into an early childhood center. The Sisters have already engaged an architect and contractor to create the plans and the design, timeline and cost for the project. ClackCoKids currently has funding to provide services to at least 36 children ages 3-5 through Oregon Pre-Kindergarten (OPK) programs, as well as an additional 16 infants and toddlers through Early Head Start. The project could serve 20 additional children ages 3-5 and 8 additional children ages 6 weeks - 3 years with either subsidies or fee-for-service care, and up to 30 children in after school care. This space could serve a minimum of 110 children needing care. The space could also serve as a place to house foster children awaiting foster care, and could serve as a central space for WIC, DHS, and other critical programs to families in need. A 100-unit affordable housing complex, Marylhurst Commons, was recently constructed behind the Mayer Arts Building and two other affordable housing projects are anticipated nearby. Renovations are estimated at \$1,037,058, with an additional \$400,000 needed to create outdoor environments appropriate for early childhood and school-aged populations. ***The Oregon Head Start Association is asking for \$1,437,058 to fund the Marylhurst Project.***

Redmond (First Street Project): NeighborImpact received a small amount of funding in 2023 to fund the purchase of a modular classroom for the local Head Start's First Street project. They need \$254,000 to complete the project. This would meet a critical community need and allow them to serve 16 Early Head Start center-based slots. With funding, the modular could be up and running by June of 2024, filling a critical community need. ***The Oregon Head Start Association is asking for \$254,000 to fund the Redmond First Street Project.***

Dundee (Dundee Head Start Commons Project): The Head Start of Yamhill County, Inc. is working with the Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity and the Newberg United Methodist Church to increase affordable housing and early childhood classroom space. The project will develop a 3-story building into four condominiums for low-income families on the top two floors. On the ground level, the project would create

a Head Start classroom and an Early Head Start classroom. The total project cost is \$4.5 million. This would allow 18 additional children to participate in a Head Start program and 18 children in a center-based Head Start program. It would allow for an additional 11 children to have home visiting Early Head Start. ***The Oregon Head Start Association requests \$179,031 for the Dundee Commons Head Start classrooms project.***

Newberg (Newberg Center Expansion Completion): The Head Start of Yamhill County, Inc. sold property in Dayton to help fund the expansion of their Newberg Center. This expansion is needed to better accommodate family's needs for full-day and full-year services. Head Start of Yamhill County owns the land and is working to complete construction. This project has been delayed due to the pandemic's impact on construction and materials. Due to federal funding timelines and limits, the project must be completed by June 30, 2024. This project would serve an additional 36 children in a duration Head Start program offering full-day, full year services and 34 children participating in a part-day program. It would allow for an additional 58 children to participate in Early Head Start. ***The Oregon Head Start Association requests \$447,191 to complete the Newberg Center Expansion.***

Investing in these critical projects could provide classroom space for children this fall, but also for future generations. Facilities funding and classroom space is the most pressing need local Head Start programs face. These investments are one-time investments and will have a significant impact that benefits communities and children. We are excited with the development of this project and would greatly appreciate a state investment to make this dream a reality.

In addition to the projects above, we have a list of other projects that are very close to being ready to go and would benefit from an allocation, of either General Fund, or Lottery Bonds to add additional classroom capacity. **We would request the legislature consider lottery backed bonds to support the following projects.**

Redmond (Antler Project): NeighborImpact is working with a local developer and the local housing agency to locate 3 Head Start classrooms in a new low-income housing project. Land would be donated by Housing Works. This would provide 3,000 square feet of early childhood classrooms and space for staff at the affordable housing location. This project will provide Head Start services for 54 children. Securing funding is critical to demonstrate a commitment of funding for the project to move forward over the next 18-24 months. **(The Oregon Head Start Association is requesting \$1 million in funding for the Antler Project)**

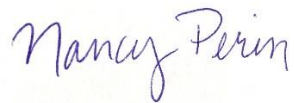
Gladstone Property: Clackamas County Children's Commission would like to request funds in the amount of \$4.16 million (\$2.4 million purchase price + \$1.76 million renovation costs) to purchase property at 17395 Webster Road, Gladstone, OR 97027 consisting of 6,498 SF. Clackamas County Children's Commission has been looking for space over the past four years, this property is one of the most move-in ready with space that was designed to house child care. The local head start program has been informed that 2 of our centers will likely not be available to us in the next 2-3 years. This creates a need to plan for the need for 7-10 new classrooms in the next 2-3 years. Additionally, the city of Gladstone has come forward with a desire to assist with any permitting issues they could help to expedite the program, as there is strong support in this community for this center. There is potential for 5 classrooms at this site with minimal improvements. Improvements include, replacing the roof, replacing siding, new paint throughout, new flooring throughout and the removal of divider wall to create classroom space that will accommodate 20 children with room for nap time use of cots. Money would also be used to create in-classroom restrooms for children in order to maximize a safe environment for children, and upgrades to two playgrounds to

improve fall zones, increase natural environment and to provide a safe trike path. **(The Oregon Head Start Association supports \$4.16 million in Lottery Bonds for the Gladstone Property Project)**

Milwaukie Property Project: Similar to the request above, the Clackamas County Children's Commission is requesting \$3.605 million (\$1.9 million purchase price + 1.705 million in renovation costs) along with a waiver request for the non-federal share to purchase property at 2992 SE Monroe St, Milwaukie, OR 97222 consisting of approximately 7,214 square feet. This property needs more work than the Gladstone property, but is an ideal location given the proximity to Hwy 224, the freeway and public transportation. Upgrades needed at this site include an to HVAC system, a roof replacement, and updated kitchen, reconfiguration of space to include some exterior exits to maximize the use of space and meet licensing requirements. The property also needs paint throughout and new flooring throughout, as well as a new upgraded outdoor playground. The playground would improve fall zones, increase natural environment landscape, provide for a safe trike path, and create a new infant and toddler playground. **(The Oregon Head Start Association supports \$3.605 million in Lottery Bonds for the Milwaukie Property Project)**

If you have any questions regarding these projects, please feel free to contact the Oregon Head Start Association's lobbyist Justen Rainey at (503) 816-3075.

Best regards,



Nancy Perin
Oregon Head Start Association - Executive Director