



RE: Letter of Support for the Clackamas County Children's Commission Head Start Facilities Purchase

The Clackamas County Children's Commission (ClackCoKids) is in a position to purchase and renovate two former YMCA properties to become early learning centers. It is essential that they are able to continue to offer quality care and education to the most vulnerable populations, as well as to prepare to provide more services in an effort to address the child care desert Clackamas County lies in.

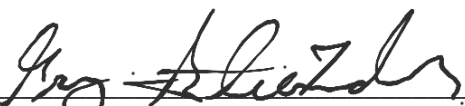
Facility funding and classroom space are the most pressing needs local Head Start programs face. The need exists, as Clackamas County Children's Commission has just been notified their lease at their Wichita site will not be renewed and they must vacate by June 20, 2024. They have also been notified that their site at Oregon City View Manor will likely expire in 2024-25 and not be renewed. In total this is a loss of 7 classroom spaces. These investments are one-time acquisitions and renovations that will have a significant impact that benefits communities and children.

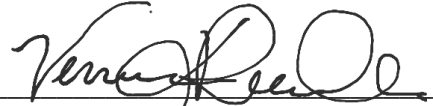
Gladstone officials recognize the importance of childcare and will support the ClackCoKids' desire to get this project operational in Gladstone. The potential classrooms at these sites will help to alleviate the burden that obtaining childcare places on the families that ClackCoKids serves. We are excited with the development of this project and would greatly appreciate a state investment to make this dream a reality.

Sincerely,


Michael Milch, Mayor


Vanessa Huckaby, City Councilor


Greg Alexander, City Councilor


Veronica Reichle, City Councilor


Cierra Cook, City Councilor


Luke Roberts, City Council President


Mindy Garlington, City Councilor