

Submitter: Dustin Stauth
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Hello,

I'm a community member in Eugene, long time volunteer at Egan Warming Centers (emergency night shelters on cold nights), and I've also worked with homeless services/shelter organizations for the last five years up to the present. I'd like to advocate in support of state of oregon funds to be distributed to shelter services for the unhoused, in particular to the PEER Shelter ran by Looking Glass Community Services. This program provides overnight shelter space for youth and young adults (ages 16-24), basic needs support, on site nurses for above average medical support, and general case management services. PEER shelter is one of the few services in the Eugene/Springfield area that offeres overnight shelter for youth and young adults, and are very unique in terms of the level of basic needs support, comfort, safety, and highly trained and effective case management provided. The program is well staffed with well paid and well trained floor staff that create meaningful rapport with guests and help steer them towards the services they appear to need, as well as towards engagement with case managers. Service referrals from PEER shelter are easier for youth to follow up when case managers and floor staff are interacting with guests on a regular or even daily basis depending their use of services. Guests can stay for short periods or long periods and there is no time limit on how long they can stay, though eventually they're required to engage with case managers and work towards stabalization to continue services. Eugene/Springfield in general has a severe lack of shelter space, and this program is crucial for providing welcoming, safe, trauma informed care for a particularly vulnerable age group in our community. A detaile breakdown of the services offered at PEER Shelter is easily acceccible on thier website.