

Submitter: Terri Berkey Gonzalez
On Behalf Of: Immanuel Lutheran Church
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Woodburn Oregon has been on a journey for the last 15 years that led us to a community informed project, the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center. In 2005 Immanuel Lutheran purchased 8 acres near I-5 in Woodburn for a future home of Immanuel Lutheran Church, however the economic collapse in 2008 and other shifts in our faith community brought us to a place of wondering, what are we being led to do ? In 2015, we received our first grant from Ford Foundation of \$5000 and matched with \$5000 of Immanuel Lutheran Church, we spent the next year in a season of listening, where we hosted 3 community gatherings and asked community members, 'what does Woodburn need?' From these conversations we developed a campus concept which include: a 20,000 square foot space which include a community gathering space that seats up to 500; a social service co-locate to serve community members basic needs, an early learning center, a 50 unit development for affordable housing developed by FHDC including integrated support services partnered with Mano a Mano, a 2 acre community park, a permanent home for North Marion Adult Center- Woodburn Senior Center, a home to Woodburn Free Community Meal that services free meals each Wednesday for over 9 years and serves over 900 meals per week, and 42,000 meals in 2024 and home to Immanuel Lutheran and other Spiritual communities. In March 2020, our church voted to sell our current facility at the appropriate time, valued at \$1.6M to further support the projects funding. In all, Immanuel will have donated over \$2.6M toward the project. In June of 2020, a Feasibility Study was completed that was funded with \$80,000 in grants from Oregon Community Foundations, Meyer Memorial Trusts and Ford Family Foundation. We recently partnered with Community Resource Trust (CRT) who has developed 2 large projects to benefit the Salem Community, Cornerstone Apartments and CTEC as a gift to the Salem School District. CRT has entered into partnership with Immanuel Lutheran to be the Developer, Fiscal and Operational partner for the project. In 2020, the project was projected to cost \$10M, today the project estimate is now \$20M. This project will serve North Marion County, which receives taxes from area residents and businesses and yet receives little support for needed services. This project would serve the greater Woodburn area including Hubbard, Gervais, Mt. Angel, St. Paul, and Woodburn, likely over 50,000 people. This project has great support and is needed as our community has exploded with growing needs including a large senior population, a multicultural community including Latino, Russian who are underserved and experience high poverty. This space could meet these needs. This space would reflect the unique diversity as a safe and welcoming place, that unites people; young and old and our community's multicultural uniqueness. Woodburn is one of the few communities of it's size that does not currently have a community center and a senior center. Thank you for

your consideration of this important project as it will serve the community for generations to come.