

# Lauren Garcia

## Testimonial for the Jobs Plus Program

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In September of 2014 I had found myself on TANF due to a separation from an abusive relationship. At that time I was a newly single mother of 3 children all under the age of 4 and I had not worked since 2010. I had never experienced being a working mother before and I was very nervous about the whole ordeal, there were so many fears going into it. I ran into road block after road block finding a daycare with 3 openings one of which for a child under 2 years old. I was given some really great resources to help me with my search that I've actually given to others that are struggling with the same situation.

When I finally started my 5 week SW course, during my first week the trainer had mentioned that if you work hard to stand out you might have the opportunity to apprentice or volunteer with either DHS or then ERN. I had never even considered working for the state as a career avenue. I felt like that was far beyond my reach as I have only graduated High School, and have no college experience. I worked hard to meet those expectations, I took advantage of all the resources and opportunities that I came across to help me along the way, like taking the NCRC and improving my resume and mock interviews. I found all these things really helpful.

One day I received an email from my Job Search Coach with the opportunity with OPAR. My first initial response was that I was so excited to have a chance to work for the state, but at second thought I thought strongly about letting it pass. This was a Jobs Plus job and I knew that if I accepted it, I would not only lose my TANF grant but my SNAP too and that was really scary to think about, remember I have 3 little kids. I took the next day to talk to Cindy about what it would mean if I took it, and I also talked with my case manager about it. I knew that the people who supported me wouldn't throw me into a situation that would cause me to fail so I decided to just go for it. I'm so glad that I did.

Once I started working I felt so good about taking care of my family. All of the "scary" was totally worth it. I met my new coworkers and got to work. We went in wanting to learn and grow. I had very basic skills, the skills that I feel really served me well was my drive to prove myself and take care of my family, integrity, and willingness to learn everything I can. All of the basic clerical skills kind of just came with my training here at OPAR. There was a job opening at entry level in the same unit I had been temping for about 4 months into my position so naturally I applied for it.

I now work with OPAR as an Office Specialist 2 and Lead Worker as of Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. And I get the opportunity to teach and help others grow in their own journey and share my successes with them. The support I've been given by YFS, DHS, and OPAR has given me a belief in myself that I just plain didn't have before the program.

# Oregon Recidivism Analysis

November 2016



Criminal Justice Commission  
Michael Schmidt, Executive Director

Oregon Statistical Analysis Center  
Kelly Officer, Director  
Courtney Riggs, Research Analyst

With Special Thanks To:  
Jeremiah Stromberg, Department of Corrections



## Recidivism Rates Statewide

Statewide Parole-PPS Recidivism Rates							
Cohort	Cohort Size	Arrest for a New Crime within 3 Years of Release		Conviction for a New Crime within 3 Years of Release		Incarceration for a New Felony Crime within 3 Years of Release	
		Number Arrested	Percent Arrested	Number Convicted	Percent Convicted	Number Incarcerated	Percent Incarcerated
1998\1st	1975	971	49.2%	752	38.1%	256	13.0%
1998\2nd	2251	1179	52.4%	908	40.3%	344	15.3%
1999\1st	2278	1264	55.5%	1006	44.2%	366	16.1%
1999\2nd	2448	1415	57.8%	1095	44.7%	445	18.2%
2000\1st	2432	1344	55.3%	1054	43.3%	393	16.2%
2000\2nd	2398	1334	55.6%	1047	43.7%	412	17.2%
2001\1st	2564	1395	54.4%	1064	41.5%	448	17.5%
2001\2nd	2609	1428	54.7%	1101	42.2%	445	17.1%
2002\1st	2436	1305	53.6%	997	40.9%	398	16.3%
2002\2nd	2753	1475	53.6%	1084	39.4%	482	17.5%
2003\1st	2580	1355	52.5%	1037	40.2%	473	18.3%
2003\2nd	2547	1305	51.2%	1015	39.9%	448	17.6%
2004\1st	2751	1478	53.7%	1172	42.6%	515	18.7%
2004\2nd	3071	1687	54.9%	1331	43.3%	543	17.7%
2005\1st	2855	1549	54.3%	1185	41.5%	477	16.7%
2005\2nd	3007	1604	53.3%	1230	40.9%	494	16.4%
2006\1st	2993	1582	52.9%	1185	39.6%	481	16.1%
2006\2nd	3038	1552	51.1%	1200	39.5%	456	15.0%
2007\1st	2945	1563	53.1%	1175	39.9%	458	15.6%
2007\2nd	3024	1556	51.5%	1171	38.7%	476	15.7%
2008\1st	2904	1463	50.4%	1148	39.5%	447	15.4%
2008\2nd	2824	1424	50.4%	1068	37.8%	421	14.9%
2009\1st	2768	1386	50.1%	978	35.3%	391	14.1%
2009\2nd	3280	1649	50.3%	1226	37.4%	468	14.3%
2010\1st	2889	1424	49.3%	1055	36.5%	411	14.2%
2010\2nd	2947	1542	52.3%	1156	39.2%	459	15.6%
2011\1st	2918	1491	51.1%	1108	38.0%	454	15.6%
2011\2nd	3024	1589	52.5%	1187	39.3%	524	17.3%
2012\1st	2963	1567	52.9%	1170	39.5%	487	16.4%
2012\2nd	2984	1636	54.8%	1208	40.5%	502	16.8%
2013\1st	2853	1575	55.2%	1190	41.7%	473	16.6%

### Statewide Probation Recidivism Rates

Cohort	Cohort Size	Arrest for a New Crime within 3 Years of Imposition of Probation		Conviction for a New Crime within 3 Years of Imposition of Probation		Incarceration for a New Felony Crime within 3 Years of Imposition of Probation	
		Number Arrested	Percent Arrested	Number Convicted	Percent Convicted	Number Incarcerated	Percent Incarcerated
1998\1st	4789	2302	48.1%	2462	51.4%	555	11.6%
1998\2nd	4807	2272	47.3%	2386	49.6%	516	10.7%
1999\1st	4815	2241	46.5%	2314	48.1%	531	11.0%
1999\2nd	4633	2166	46.8%	2202	47.5%	509	11.0%
2000\1st	4915	2286	46.5%	2238	45.5%	556	11.3%
2000\2nd	4379	2054	46.9%	2029	46.3%	464	10.6%
2001\1st	4818	2130	44.2%	2140	44.4%	546	11.3%
2001\2nd	4419	1999	45.2%	2031	46.0%	512	11.6%
2002\1st	4776	2181	45.7%	2143	44.9%	617	12.9%
2002\2nd	4536	2008	44.3%	1910	42.1%	526	11.6%
2003\1st	4134	1880	45.5%	1691	40.9%	462	11.2%
2003\2nd	4198	1936	46.1%	1800	42.9%	530	12.6%
2004\1st	4622	2203	47.7%	2020	43.7%	615	13.3%
2004\2nd	4470	2171	48.6%	1917	42.9%	594	13.3%
2005\1st	4941	2393	48.4%	2158	43.7%	663	13.4%
2005\2nd	4969	2318	46.6%	2126	42.8%	585	11.8%
2006\1st	5413	2514	46.4%	2240	41.4%	625	11.5%
2006\2nd	4786	2216	46.3%	1935	40.4%	538	11.2%
2007\1st	4989	2211	44.3%	1934	38.8%	519	10.4%
2007\2nd	4349	1883	43.3%	1649	37.9%	431	9.9%
2008\1st	4535	1881	41.5%	1634	36.0%	444	9.8%
2008\2nd	4065	1731	42.6%	1493	36.7%	395	9.7%
2009\1st	4310	1810	42.0%	1547	35.9%	392	9.1%
2009\2nd	3879	1696	43.7%	1416	36.5%	376	9.7%
2010\1st	4081	1848	45.3%	1526	37.4%	442	10.8%
2010\2nd	4245	1923	45.3%	1630	38.4%	449	10.6%
2011\1st	4205	1931	45.9%	1659	39.5%	514	12.2%
2011\2nd	4191	1945	46.4%	1654	39.5%	538	12.8%
2012\1st	4531	2059	45.4%	1761	38.9%	545	12.0%
2012\2nd	3917	1857	47.4%	1597	40.8%	500	12.8%
2013\1st	4250	2073	48.8%	1734	40.8%	556	13.1%

# OCFN IS HELPING TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

"My Family Network has changed the vision and the trajectory of my son's future by simply showing me that anything is possible. I now have a new way of thinking and I will never go back!"

-Mom of a 12 year old

## "I BELIEVE MY CHILD WILL..."

Families involved with Oregon's Family Networks describe many benefits of participation including positive and aspirational visions for their children with disabilities.



BE SAFE  
& HEALTHY  
95%



GRADUATE  
WITH A DIPLOMA  
72%



HAVE A  
PAYING JOB  
82%



LIVE  
INDEPENDENTLY  
75%

Because of partnering with family networks...



3 out of 4 families  
were able to better connect with  
resources for their child

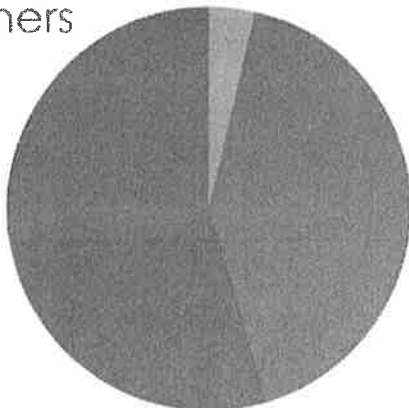
4 out of 5 community partners

supported by the Networks feel better able to  
engage families with disability



Community  
Partners

Paid Staff



Volunteers



Sources:  
OCFN 2016 Periodic Progress Report  
OCFN 2016 Member & Partner Survey Results

## Long-term benefits of OCFN

Families that had been involved with Family Networks over 6 months were significantly more likely to:

- Advocate for change for people with disabilities and
- Envision a full life for their child



Increased  
Access to  
Community



Decrease in  
Families Being  
Isolated

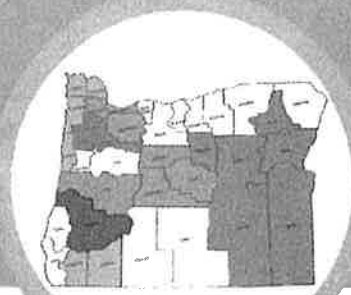


More Holistic  
Support for  
Families



# OREGON CONSORTIUM OF FAMILY NETWORKS

Supporting families to have vision for a whole life for themselves and their children,  
use services effectively and develop natural support in local communities.



7 non-profit  
organizations  
lead by local  
family members

Available in  
**75% of  
Oregon  
counties**

## WHO ARE WE?

Helping families build sustainable  
supports in local  
communities.

## What is OCFN's Impact?



Made up of 3,500 families  
who help families connect with  
other families and their communities



Connecting 11,000 people  
including community members, disability  
and non-disability organizations

## What do families say about OCFN?



**Strengthens  
Families**

to build connections and  
supports to raise children  
in their family home.



**Builds Community  
Capacity**

to support and welcome  
people and families  
experiencing disability.



**Creates Natural  
Supports**

to live a whole life and  
reduce the need for paid  
services.



**Shangri-La**

Enriching Lives Together

Friday, February 10, 2017

Dear Senator Devlin, Representative Nathanson and other Members of the Joint Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing as a concerned citizen, nonprofit leader, and advocate for disadvantaged communities. My story paints the picture of many lives represented by the nonprofit human services sector. As a 16 year old from an abused home, I made the decision to move out to escape abuse, which led to a cycle of poverty, homelessness, and single parenthood at the age of 20. Through valuable services, I found my confidence, my voice and my passion, resulting in the choice to give back and serve.

I am here today recognizing the seemingly insurmountable job that lies ahead of you. Many people will come with their "ask", and you are charged with the decision of making prudent, fiscally responsible decisions for our state. I would ask that carefully consider each one, along with the bills that pass through your office and desk. The nonprofit sector has and continues to be a solution to curbing the expense in providing needful services to our most vulnerable citizens. Many of these services are suffering as a result of shortages of funding. Some of this results in failing to consider cost of living increases, while others are a result of the many unfunded mandates.

You are responsible for balancing the state's budget, while also ensuring the most vulnerable citizens in Oregon do not suffer. Oregon will only be as good as our care and concern for the most vulnerable citizens in the communities across this great state. From living wages to protecting nonprofits from the burden of property taxes, I urge you to protect this important sector, preventing unintended consequences that could not only impact us, but also you as our elected officials. Please know, that our ears are open and we want to be part of the solution to our state's budgetary shortfall.

Thank you for your time, I will be reaching out to schedule time to meet and discuss how we can enrich lives together.

Sincerely,

Kendra Morgan  
Director of Strategic Initiatives  
(503) 910-2517

## CONNECT WITH US

Salem  
4080 Reed Rd S  
Suite #150  
Salem, OR 97302  
503-581-1732

West Salem  
Youth and Family Services  
1661 Edgewater St NW  
Suite #200  
Salem, OR 97304  
503-967-6318

Eugene  
2001 Franklin Blvd  
Suite #3  
Eugene, OR 97403  
541-344-1121

Florence  
85188 Hwy 101 S  
PO Box 158  
Florence, OR 97439  
541-997-8028

Newport  
141 NW 11th St  
Newport, OR 97365  
541-265-4015

[WWW.SHANGRILAOREGON.ORG](http://WWW.SHANGRILAOREGON.ORG)

William K. Dettwyler - Current Board member of NW Human Services and over 60 years in Healthcare as a clinical laboratorian. I have been an employee of NWHS in the past, and now also a board member for over 25 years.

I can concur with Larry's statement, NWHS has been a very important part of the Healthcare in the greater Salem area, as it has brought health, dental, and mental health to the most vulnerable population, for the many people that have been left out by the traditional healthcare setting.

Our services fulfill an urgent need in this area and continued funding of the Oregon Health Plan is important for the many consumers of this less expensive option that has been available for these many years. Other issues may come and go but healthcare is forever an issue, especially for the poor and needy in our community.





Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways and Means Committee  
900 Court St. NE, S-213  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
Joint Way and Means Committee  
900 Court St. NE, H-276  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair  
Human Services Subcommittee  
900 Court St. NE, S-215  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Rep. Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Human Services Subcommittee  
900 Court St. NE, H-375  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Devlin, Nathanson, Steiner Hayward, and Rayfield:

We ask you to invest \$4 million in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund in the 2017-19 Department of Human Services budget. This important fund helps Oregon's 20 regional food banks acquire and distribute food to over 950 local agencies across Oregon, helping families during times of economic hardship and communities struck by natural disasters. Yamhill County Food Bank supports this request as a necessary measure to help stop the rise of hunger in Oregon.

The Oregon Hunger Response Fund is the state government's sole food assistance program not connected to a federal program like SNAP, WIC or Farm Direct Nutrition. While federal food programs play a huge role in Oregon, they are clearly not enough to stop Oregon from being the only state in the nation to see a rise in hunger. USDA released its Food Security Report this summer showing a statistically significant increase in Oregon's hunger rate on a three year average.

Oregon has a hunger crisis. We are the only state in the nation that experienced an increase in its hunger rate in the last three years based on the recently released report. The number of people and the volume of food distributed in Oregon's food bank network has remained at recession levels unbeknownst to the public. Many, including private donors, assume that hunger has decreased.

For too long, Oregon families have struggled to know when and where their next meal will come from. This is very troubling especially given that the nation has recovered from the Great Recession. Over 600,000 Oregonians are food insecure with single-mothers and their children most at risk, especially in rural Oregon and communities of color. Nearly 300,000 Oregonians each month access food services through the Oregon Food Bank Network.

Food is the cornerstone to good health, educational success, and a productive labor force. It is a basic human need just like housing.

Oregon's network of regional food banks is a partnership, supported by private and public sectors with community and faith based organizations and an army of volunteers. The Oregon Hunger Response Fund is the state's contribution to this effort. The Fund is critical to helping the Oregon Food Bank Network get food to (insert your organization name) so that we can serve families in communities such as Yamhill County.

## 2-10-17 Hearing on 2017-18 Oregon Income

Thank you for your work on the budget and for seeking input.

Clearly, Oregon needs more income--from individuals and groups who will be least hurt by paying more taxes. (Like Pres. Obama, I feel I could pay higher taxes!)

For individuals, I suggest raising the income tax for those with a taxable income above \_\_\_\_\_.  
(\$80,000? \$100,000? ??)

For corporations, I suggest something akin to the defeated Measure 97, at a level lower than 2.5%.

Of course, even with citizen input like today's, it will be a challenge to "sell" this. It may be worth considering phasing in such increases, with higher amounts in 2018-19 than in 2017-18.

(Would it be too daring to look at building in still higher taxes in 2019-20 and 2020-21?  
Probably--unless some expenses can be deferred, thus lessening this year's "pain.").

Elsa Struble  
210 18th St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
gstruble@willamette.edu

Chair Devlin, Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sandra Hernandez I live in Salem Oregon, I come to you today to speak on behalf of the many after school youth programs in Oregon. As the coordinator of a non-profit youth led organization, Latinos Unidos Siempre, I have witnessed- first hand- the difference that it makes for youth when having opportunities to be involved in extracurricular activities.

**However, due to the funding crisis that is being caused by the choice Oregon has made to have the lowest corporate taxes in the country, programs like the one I work for are in danger of being cut.** We still have the opportunity to fund these programs by making the choice of asking corporations to pay their fair share in taxes and expand and retain after school youth programs that help with the academic success of our students, provide mentorship which could make an enormous difference for youth who are disconnected from their peers, educators and sometimes family, and which provide community service opportunities that allow youth to grow as leaders in their community.

**That is why I ask that you do what you can to ensure that our Youth Programs are not affected by having budget cuts to these systems of support for our community, especially those that help students coming from working families.**

**League of Women Voters of Marion & Polk Counties**  
**1534 Scotch Avenue SE, Salem, OR 97306**  
**[cindyburgess8@gmail.com](mailto:cindyburgess8@gmail.com)**  
**503-370-9044**

February 10, 2017

Greetings to the Honorable Members of Oregon State Legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee,

The LWVOR Legislative Action Team prioritized REVENUE AND TAX REFORM for the 2017 session given the \$1.8 Billion deficit for the upcoming biennium. We strongly urge adopting stable and fair revenue policies and tax reforms to adequately fund services and functions critical to the well-being of Oregonians—education, social services, public safety, health care, natural resources and other vital services.

Additionally, tax credits and other legislation that takes away from revenue, while perhaps a good thing to consider in better times, must be rejected this session, unless additional revenue is provided. We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy J. Burgess".

Cindy J. Burgess, JD  
President  
League of Women Voters of Marion & Polk Counties

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**Everyone deserves to be a part of their community.**

People with Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities are most successful in their communities when they can access a variety of services that embrace the diversity of people's needs and goals across their lifespan. Yet budget cuts are jeopardizing the diversity of the Oregon I/DD system leaving it unable to meet the needs of people with I/DD.

The Oregon I/DD Coalition believes that for Oregonians with I/DD to be members of their communities, Oregon must properly fund Direct Support Professionals, housing options, family networks and case management.

### **Continued Service Funding Levels:**

Make Oregon stronger by continuing to invest in supports for Oregonians with Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities to live and work in their communities.

### **Direct Support Professionals:**

Fund a living wage to stabilize the DSP workforce that keeps citizens with I/DD healthy and safe while they live, learn, work and age in our communities.

### **Family to Family Networks:**

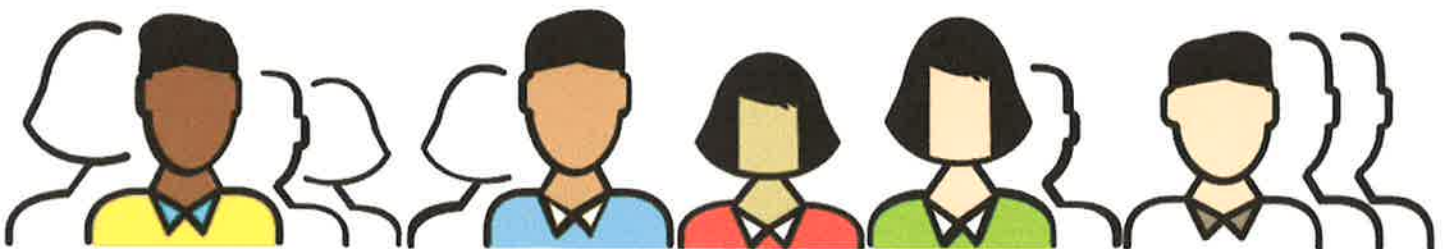
Fund the regional Family to Family Networks to strengthen families and communities as they work together to build sustainable support systems.

### **Case Management:**

Fund I/DD case management at 95% equity so that Oregonians with I/DD can remain safe and supported at home, work and in the community.

### **Fairview Housing Trust:**

Keep the promise of affordable, safe and accessible housing for people with I/DD by fully funding the Fairview Trust.





## DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP) WAGES

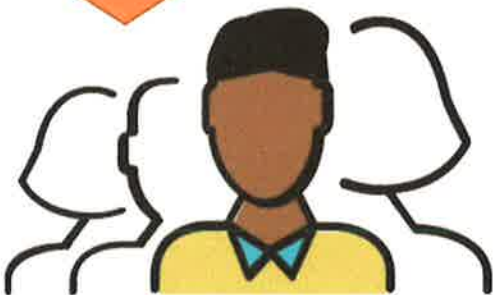
### Provider Perspective:

*We want to provide services that keep people healthy and safe, but cannot do that with wages too low to keep staff.*



### DSP Perspective:

*I love supporting people to live safe and full lives in their communities, but I can't afford to do it and support my family.*



Fund a living wage to stabilize the DSP workforce that supports Oregonians with I/DD to be healthy and safe while they live, learn, work and age in our communities.

Many DSPs cannot afford to stay.

Turnover and workforce shortages jeopardize the health and safety of Oregonians with I/DD.

### **Important Data**

✓ 1,400 open DSP positions exist

✓ DSPs work overtime to cover vacancies.

✓ \$11.23/hour average wage for DSPs.

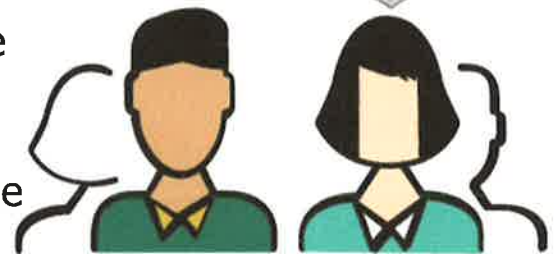
### Self-Advocate Perspective:

*Using support services is very personal. It takes time to build trust and it is hard when DSPs change so often.*



### Family Perspective:

*When agencies are unable to keep or hire staff, the service quality goes down and our family member suffers.*



### **Everyone deserves to be a part of their community.**

People with Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities are most successful in their communities when they can access a variety of services that embrace the diversity of people's needs and goals across their lifespan.





Partnerships in  
Community  
Living, Inc.



# STATE OF EMERGENCY

A Workforce Abandoned  
PEOPLE AT RISK

# A System in Crisis

Oregon community providers who support individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) are in the midst of an unprecedented direct care workforce staffing crisis.

**We need immediate and long term solutions to sustain services for individuals with disabilities, their families, as well as the people who support their Quality of Life.**

## Fast Facts:

**14,000 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)** provide essential care, services and support for **over 6,000** Oregonians with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

DSP positions top the list of the projected fastest-growing occupations in the country, making the current reality a crisis.

**6,459 employees** working in Oregon residential agencies who serve individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities require **\$20M in public aid\*** to help provide for themselves and their families.

In addition to round-the-clock care and companionship, **DSPs dispense, track and regulate medications, provide intimate personal care and manage behavior issues as they arise.**

\*As reported by the 2013 Oregon Workforce Report issued by the University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center.

## Support a workforce that delivers on quality

Community providers' inability to recruit and retain qualified staff is constricting their capacity to provide supports to meet the growing demand for services.

## Who's at Risk?

Individuals who cannot access supports due to insufficient system capacity languish on waiting lists, end up in jail, on the street or in emergency rooms. Community providers pay millions of dollars in overtime costs to cover current support needs. Exhaustion leads to increased risk of caregiver injury and the potential risk of abuse and neglect in the system.

## It's about Health, Safety, Sustainability and Quality of Life.

Researchers have estimated if turnover remains at 50% nationally, nearly **one million new caregivers** will have to be hired in 2020. These individuals who possess the unique skills and heart for the work deserve validation in the form of a professional career path and a living wage.

## Support SB238

The Oregon Resource Association drafted SB238 to address the workforce crisis with a long term strategy requiring DHS to pay agencies 150% of minimum wage (*see spreadsheet for funding target on reverse*). Wages are key but resources to fund a professional career path requires DHS to provide online training to DSPs to support professional development and reduce turnover.



Need more facts? Turn over →



**State of Emergency: A Workforce Abandoned, People at Risk** is an initiative of the Oregon Resource Association membership. For more information about ORA or the initiative, visit [oregonresource.org](http://oregonresource.org)



### This is Ric:

*Ric needs help every day with personal care. Due to staffing shortages, Ric has new, unfamiliar, people routinely helping with his very intimate needs. Like any one of us, Ric just wants to have someone he knows well to help him, but in these dire times, is just isn't possible.*

*For Rick, this issue is about **Health and Safety**.*



### This is Deanna:

*Deanna's supportive positive care for independence with the individual she supports has vastly improved and maintained a healthy, person-centered atmosphere. The person Deanna supports has found new independence in community integration, and has independently had the energy and pride to engage and participate in their own household chores and cleaning. Deanna feels that this is her life's work, but wonders how long she will be able to afford to work in this field.*

*For Deanna, this issue is about **Sustainability**.*



### This is Chante:

*Chante always helps plan the best birthday parties. One gentleman who lost his mother the previous year was having his first birthday without her. Chante made it her goal to plan a party with his family and fellow roommates. The simple joy on his face was evident and she said, "Now this makes my heart happy, doing something for them and no one else."*

*For Chante, this issue is about **Quality of Life**.*



## Providers stretched too thin

Oregon service providers have absorbed escalating staff costs and provided wage increases as they could when there were no rate increases, to address escalating recruitment challenges. The 4% rate increase effective January 1, 2016 does not move Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) beyond poverty wages. This causes retention and recruitment issues, skyrocketing costs for continual new staff training, escalated risk to current staff and the individuals they support, and an ever increasing list of individuals in need of support relegated to waiting lists or worse. A tangible solution is urgently needed.



### 150% of DSP Wage Comparison – Funding Target for SB238

*Direct Support Professional wages at 150% of Oregon's minimum wage*

Region	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Min.	DSP	Min.	DSP	Min.	DSP	Min.	DSP	Min.	DSP	Min.	DSP
Standard	\$10.25	\$15.38	\$10.75	\$16.13	\$11.25	\$16.88	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$12.75	\$19.13	\$13.50	\$20.25
Metro	\$11.25	\$16.88	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$12.50	\$18.75	\$13.25	\$19.88	\$14.00	\$21.00	\$14.75	\$22.13
Non-Urban	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$10.50	\$15.75	\$11.00	\$16.50	\$11.50	\$17.25	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$12.50	\$18.75

### Questions?

Contact Chris Burnett, Oregon Resource Association, [cburnett@oregonresource.org](mailto:cburnett@oregonresource.org), (503) 585-3337



State of Emergency: A Workforce Abandoned, People at Risk is an initiative of the Oregon Resource Association membership. For more information about ORA or the initiative, visit [oregonresource.org](http://oregonresource.org)

My Name is T.J. Hafner. I grew up on a family owned grass seed farm a couple miles north of Sublimity. I work for AgriCare, a farm management company specializing in hazelnuts and organic blueberries. On an acreage basis, Agricare is Oregon's largest producer of both crops. I am responsible for the fertility & crop protectant programs and also organic certification. I am also 1/3 owner of a 45 acre hazelnut farm in Lyons.

I am here tonight to support the funding of the Public Statewide Services program at the levels requested by the OSU Board of Trustees. Prior to the last biennium the OSU Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station had been on a 15 year decline in both personnel and resources. The increased funding in the last biennium was a significant help. The funding request for the next two years will ONLY allow these programs to maintain the services that have been gained over the last two years.

Why is this important to me? As most of you have probably noticed the Oregon hazelnut industry is growing rapidly. Oregon is at just over 60,000 acres of hazelnuts, which is almost TWO TIMES the acreage of 5 years ago. The increased funding for the Public Statewide Services in the last biennium allowed for the hiring of Nik Wiman, the Orchard Crop Extension Specialist. This is a position that the hazelnut industry desperately needed filled. Hazelnut farming practices have not changed much over the past 50 years. Most farmers don't irrigate, for the most part all varieties are pruned and fertilized the same, and old pesticide chemistries are still used. Compare this to the almond or pistachio industries in California where they are using micro sprinklers for irrigation and varieties area being pruned and fertilized differently to maximize productivity. The research that Nik, his team, and other researchers have started is essential to support this fast growing industry—and, a growing part of the state's economy.

In addition to this, the research that has been done at OSU's North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora has played an important role in the success of the Oregon blueberry industry (both organic and conventional). Research that has come out of the Center has changed the way we fertilize, it's changed the way we irrigate, the varieties we plant, and even the way we prune. Myself and many others within the industry go to OSU workshops during the year for training ranging in topics from pruning to pollinator habitat enhancement. Your past support of the Public Statewide Services has allowed OSU to hire a Bilingual Extension Specialist who offers Extension workshops in Spanish geared specifically to our field workers. The addition of bilingual faculty to OSU's agriculture Extension program has been very helpful to an industry critically dependent on a Spanish speaking labor force.

Farmers in Oregon applaud you for the support you provided to increase the budget for the Public Statewide Services in the last Session. Please continue to support their request in your upcoming budget.

My name is Saleem Noorani and I live in Albany. Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments and for your commitment to listen to Oregonians. Today, I am here for myself, my family, community and as an AARP member and volunteer.

Oregon is home to a system of long-term care that has been held up as a model for the country. Our system is built on the principal that Oregon's seniors deserve to live with independence, choice, and dignity.

We strongly urge the legislature not to balance the budget on the backs of Oregon's most vulnerable - our seniors and people with physical disabilities — and their caregivers. Oregon's long-term care system is cost-efficient, provides valuable jobs and stimulates local economies.

Cost-efficient. The state pays roughly 30 cents of each dollar to support Medicaid-supported long term care services and supports. The other 70% comes from provider taxes and Federal matching funds. Therefore, every dollar reduced in state investment, eliminates two more dollars from Oregon's economy.

Prevents future costs. Oregon's long-term care system helps people stay in their homes. This not only improves quality of life, it also lowers the cost of care. Reducing support for these services today produces higher costs tomorrow.

Workforce. Oregon's long-term care system employs more than 80,000 workers in every corner of the state. The vast majority of caregivers are women who are supporting their families. Oregon has made a commitment to rising wages that should be honored with a rising investment.

AARP supports a balanced approach to the State's budget gap, including prioritizing essential services for the most vulnerable Oregonians, asking corporations to contribute more than 5% towards the state's general fund, and supporting front-line workers who are caring for vulnerable Oregonians and providing for their families.

Thank you for listening today and your leadership and commitment <sup>to</sup> Oregon's most vulnerable - our seniors and people with physical disabilities <sup>^</sup> — and their caregivers

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February 6, 2017

RE. Possible loss of funding for I/DD services due to budget cuts

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Carla Carter and I am a 51 years old and I have developmental disabilities. I live in my own apartment in Monmouth Oregon. I get services through Partnerships in Community Living. Although I'm very Independent, I have Cerebral Palsy, Sleep Apnea and mental illness. It is very important to have Direct Support Staff. They help me be healthy and safe. Every week I need help with:

Cooking	Dr. appointments
Laundry	Cleaning
Shopping	Transportation
My medication	Checking my C-pap machine to ensure it works properly.

In the Fall of 2012 I have one staff that come to my place two time a week I become ill due to my C-pap not working properly. At the time I didn't know it, but I stopped breathing at least 85 times per hour! I was tired all the time, really overweight and emotional about everything. I had a lot of falls and needed to get around with a walker. Now I have staff at night who helped me get a new machine with a mask that fits. When the alarm goes off at night, the staff wake me and help me re-adjust it. Now my breathing only stops 2 times an hour. Sleep Apnea is deadly illness.

As I age, I know I will need more staff. That's alway worrying me because Oregon has a history of short-fall in the budget. With the new Administration in D.C I'm afraid they'll do something bad.

My medications, my C-pap machine and walker are paid for by Medicare, If funding is cut to I/DD services, I could lose funding for medical care and Staff I need to be safe and healthy. Can you please make sure services for people with developmental disabilities gets properly funded?

Thank you very much, Carla Carter



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