

**From:** [Becky Simpson](#)  
**To:** [JWMHS Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [oregonddc@gmail.com](mailto:oregonddc@gmail.com)  
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Our focus needs to be on staff who will have the most direct contact and positive impact with Oregonians who are identified as one of most vulnerable in the state, but we are continually battling the loss of funds and the threat of loss of funds. The typical wage is 11.00 - 11.50/ hr for entry level staff, who stay in their position an average of 18 months. Providers are creative with figuring out how to cut costs without cutting wages, but it usually means decreasing benefits, decreasing the amount of training offered and eliminating or decreasing quality assurance to those we serve.

As a CEO, and active advocate, I hear my CEO peers talk about the exhaustive effort put into providing the most efficient and effective home support, behavioral services, and day and employment services possible for adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities throughout Oregon.

These, as well as other ongoing funding issues are on the forefront of everyone's mind.

Thank you for supporting Full Funding of services for Oregonians with disabilities, and Living Wages for those who support them.

Sincerely,

Becky Simpson, CEO  
Pathway Enterprises, Inc.  
1600 Sky Park Drive | Medford, OR 97504  
541-973-2728 | fax 541-973-2829 | cell 541-601-2830  
[www.pathway-inc.org](http://www.pathway-inc.org) | [www.fb.com/PathwayEnterprises](https://www.facebook.com/PathwayEnterprises)



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