

Catholic Community Services

We champion the positive development of children and adults, strengthen families and build community.

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February 14, 2020

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Attention: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee.

This letter is written in support HB 5201, and the Speakers request for \$50 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds to build affordable housing across Oregon (and/or) \$20 million for Lottery Bonds to maintain existing affordable housing.

Catholic Community Services Foundation currently provides about 300 units of affordable housing in Marion and Polk Counties. In addition to acquiring existing affordable housing we have also been building affordable housing complexes. Our most recent complex in Woodburn named Villa Esperanza was funded with LIFT funding. Currently, all of the affordable housing that we provide is over 95% occupied, that is a high number given normal turnover rates and unit turn times.

We need additional resources to develop new affordable housing for rent and for sale across Oregon. There is simply not enough affordable housing stock, especially for women with children and families. We have vulnerable populations including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in substandard and unsafe housing due to this shortage.

Since 2015, the Legislature has committed \$120 million in general obligation bonds to the LIFT program, which has funded over 2,000 affordable units since 2015, including our development Villa Esperanza in Woodburn.

We need your support for \$50 million to develop new affordable homes across Oregon (80% to affordable rental homes, 20% to affordable homes for sale); additionally, we need your support to preserve and renovate existing affordable housing stock.

Thank you for your attention and your service to our community,

Sincerely,

Joshua K. Graves, MBA, QMHA
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Community Services

CCSww.org

Fostering Hope Initiative
Lead Partner



Accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Behavioral Health,
Group Living, and Children & Family Services



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