

March 29, 2021

Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee

I write to you today on behalf of St. Francis Shelter in support of HB 5011, and the recommended budget for the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department for the 2021-2023 biennium.

St. Francis Shelter provides transitional housing and life skills supports to help homeless families return to self-sufficiency. We work with families struggling with substance abuse, fleeing domestic violence, with criminal justice involvement, and who are homeless due to job loss and rising rents. Families call St. Francis home for up to 5 months while they receive individualized case management services around parenting, cooking, and savings. After working with our Housing Specialist, over 90% of the families at St. Francis move into safe, permanent housing.

A safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need.

As you know, the State of Oregon has been hit hard by several crises in 2020. The ongoing pandemic and summer wildfires have devastated communities across the state and thrown families into economic distress. Prior to 2020, Oregon was already experiencing a housing crisis, and too many of our neighbors and community members were experiencing housing instability. In times of crisis like the ones that we experienced last year, and the one we are continuing to experience, a strong response to aid those who are most impacted is critical.

Throughout the years, St. Francis Shelter has worked with OHCS to provide program using SHAP funding. These programs have helped families find St. Francis and allowed us to provide individualized case management and intake services for the diverse families we serve.

We strongly support the passage of HB 5011 so that organizations like ours can continue to partner with OHCS and work to serve the people of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

  
Kimberly Lenman  
Executive Director – St. Francis Shelter



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**“A Safe Place for Families”**