

Letter of Support FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4, Linn Benton Healthy Families Program.
4/20/2021 To the Oregon State Legislature Ways and Means Committee.
Co-Chair Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and-Co-Chair Representative Dan Rayfield and Committee.

My name is Judy Treanor, chairperson of the Linn Benton Healthy Families Advisory Committee, formerly Program Manager of the Linn County Healthy Start/Healthy Families Program from its opening in 1995. The Linn County program joined the Benton County program at the Old Mill Center for Children and Families in 2014. Healthy Families' home visitors have the honor of working with families who ask for help in the earliest days of their children's lives. Healthy Families Oregon programs are designed to serve Oregon's families who want help to ensure that their children, from infancy through up to age 4, have the emotional security that comes from consistent, nurturing parenting. Parents are seeking help to give their children the best chance at reaching their full potential. As parents, they are courageous enough to invite Healthy Families Oregon into their lives and deserve our services, and that is why a \$10 million budget increase this biennium is critical to ensuring the well-being of Oregon's youngest children and their families.

This past year, the Covid-19 Pandemic has confronted families with additional challenges. Linn Benton Healthy Families realized that for health and safety reasons the usual mode of operation, visits in the home, needed a new way. Home visitors and their supervisors pulled together and designed their new way of meeting a families' needs for support, connection, and service during this critical and challenging time. Home visits are now provided outdoors, weather permitting or virtually. Frequent phone calls arrange for the home delivery of parenting resources, food, diapers, and other needs. Virtual parenting groups and parenting education classes have been created and provided by home visitors. Referrals to needed community resources are identified and community connections are made. Accurate information on how a family with a young child can manage and cope well is provided,

It is the continued support from the Oregon Legislature that has allowed the Linn Benton Healthy Families team to provide services to our youngest citizens and their young parents.

Thank you for your support as you deliberate the needs of this programs budget for next steps.