

April 24, 2021

Center for HOPE & SAFETY

RE: Support for \$10 million increase to ODSVS and Support for Survivor Housing Funds

Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, Rayfield, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda Cole and I am the Community Engagement Coordinator for Center for Hope & Safety (CHS) in Marion County, where we provide supportive services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.



I am writing to ask for your support for a \$10 million increase in funding for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services fund (ODSVS) within the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division of the Department of Justice.

The **ODSVS fund** is the only General Fund for confidential shelter, support, and safety planning services for survivors and their children. ODSVS provides stability for advocacy services across the state. This stability ensures programs can maintain their emergency, confidential shelters, keep their hotlines running, and continue to serve survivors and help with their safety needs. These funds go to culturally-specific programs, Tribal Nations, and community-based domestic and sexual violence programs.

Additionally, the **Survivor Housing Funds** provide emergency assistance to survivors at imminent risk of becoming unhoused or unstably or unsafely housed. These funds have made an incredible impact on the lives of survivors. In one year with Survivor Housing Funds, CHS was able to assist 61 families with their housing needs, 38 of those families having children.

In the same year, with the combination of ODSVS and Survivor Housing Funds, CHS was able to support those who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and the housing crisis in our state. 45% of those we both sheltered and assisted with housing identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color. Housing instability continues to be one of the most challenging barriers survivors of interpersonal violence face in the state of Oregon. The Survivor Housing Funds have proven to be life-changing for families in our state.

This past year has been increasingly difficult for those we serve. With the ongoing fallout from the pandemic and the devastation from the wildfires, families in our area face seemingly insurmountable barriers to safety only made more devastating by the violence they have experienced in their homes.

Please support ODSVS and Survivor Housing funds to your greatest capacity, to ensure that survivors in your communities and their children have access to emergency shelter, expert safety-planning, housing stability, and wrap-around support services. These services save lives.

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

Amanda Cole
Community Engagement Coordinator