

Hello. My name is Jackie Trussell. I am the Treatment Director at Serendipity Center and am here to ask for an investment of 2.8 million dollars to help fund a facility expansion.

Serendipity Center is a non-profit therapeutic school located in outer SE Portland, that serves over 20 school districts. I have been Serendipity Center's Treatment Director for over 15 years and have witnessed first-hand both the devastating impact of trauma and poverty, as well as the transformation that is possible when the right care and interventions are offered. Please help us meet the need which is growing in both acuity and size, for students whose behavioral health challenges make public school participation simply impossible.

Over 65 percent of our student population come to us with a history of childhood trauma. As a Trauma Informed school, we desperately need the physical space that will enable us to provide mental health and trauma informed services seamlessly into our school day. This expansion will benefit our students and make it possible to truly integrate practices for building self-regulation and social competencies into the design of our campus.

Additionally, due to the growing number of mental health crisis due to COVID-19, we can anticipate a significant increase in referrals. An expansion of our school is crucial to meet this growing need.

In closing, an investment of 2.8 million dollars for a facility expansion is an investment in the education and treatment of our region's most vulnerable students.

Thank you very much for your time.