



May 5, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178, Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Girod, Representative Holvey, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of the “Glide Revitalization” capital project under consideration in SB5701.

Glide Revitalization is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to improve community prosperity through Childcare & Education, Disaster Relief & Preparedness, Business Growth & Development and Reforestation & Recreation for the community of Glide, OR since 2014.

In 2020, due to the Archie Creek Fire, the organization pivoted to focus solely on aiding those who were evacuated and helping families who had lost their homes by providing basic needs like food, clothing, and temporary shelter to make sure they were safe, sanitary, and secure. Now, on the other side of the Archie Fire, Glide Revitalization (GR) is refocusing on their overall mission to provide resources to the community, beyond disaster relief, to restore economic vitality to the region.

Douglas county has been long identified as a childcare desert. The inability to secure work due to a lack of safe, secure and affordable childcare close to home increases stress on our moderate to low-income families. The need for licensed childcare is essential to development and socialization. A deficit has been identified in emotional maturity and socialization of many children entering public school due to the isolation during the pandemic. Preschool and structured childcare centers are working to bridge this gap and better prepare children for entering the public school system.

Our vision is to provide a resource center to offer safe and secure childcare, a hub for disaster preparedness planning and incident response, a designated safe gathering place and temporary shelter during disasters, and space for community partners to provide essential resources and services. A community resource center is essential to bring all of these resources and services into one location, central to the greater Glide community, allowing residents to access these essential services in their own community.

In November 2022, GR purchases a 6,000 SF building with its cash reserves. The new building will benefit our community by providing affordable childcare, office space, a local library, access to social services locally, Preschool Promise (in partnership with UCAN), shared community conference room, continued access to caseworkers on a local level to support rehabilitation of displaced families, youth afterschool programs, youth technical development program and available space to provide temporary shelter-in-place during a local emergency as needed.

As this building was originally a warehouse, it requires renovations to create these spaces and make it accessible to the community. Initial inspections and quotes have been completed and a general contractor hired to perform the building renovations. Initial zoning requirements have all been satisfied and the building permits are underway.

The estimated costs to renovate and repurpose the building is \$3.1M. GR has applied for \$2M in Congressionally Directed Spending through USDA Rural Development. There is a required 25% match (\$500k) which we have already secured. The request for the 2023 Oregon State Legislature is \$750k and, if awarded, would enable GR to complete the full project, opening the community resource center, childcare facility and temporary shelter for disaster relief. We estimate 24 months from project start to completion.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We understand that resources are limited, and we believe that investing in this project is an opportunity to provide necessary support to the community of Glide.

Sincerely,

Jeana Beam
Chief Financial Officer