



13 February 2024

Dear Co Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you to express my support for the funding of the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center. At Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, our mission is to empower people to exit poverty by providing resources and community leadership in Marion and Polk County. Since Marion County is part of our service area, we've been serving the city of Woodburn since our founding, and an opportunity center would go a long way towards addressing poverty in the region.

The Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center would serve as a multicultural and multigenerational gathering space, hosting a family stability resource center, public and private events, and serving as a space for spiritual renewal. We are particularly excited to support this project because it's aligned with No Wrong Door principles—with different community partners hosted in a single resource center, community members will be able to have their needs met in a more holistic and immediate way.

Through our housing program, The ARCHES Project, MWVCAA will have a staff person on-site to provide housing navigation and case management. Housing services coupled with the other on-site services will help local people experiencing poverty receive wrap-around support, helping them exit poverty and enter self-sufficiency. This is directly aligned with our core mission, which is why we're happy to support this vital project by helping manage the rental space, having staff on-site dedicated to housing navigation, and eventually serving on the board of the non-profit that will be convened.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Jones", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jimmy Jones  
Executive Director