

February 16, 2024

# Center for HOPE & SAFETY

Senator Fred Girod  
Representative Paul Holvey  
Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Committee On Ways & Means  
Subcommittee On Capital Construction  
900 Court Street NE,  
Salem, OR 97301



Re: HOPE Plaza Letters from Community Partners

Co-chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey and members of the committee:

My name is Mariana Lopez, and I am the Administrative Assistant at the Center for Hope & Safety. The Center for Hope & Safety has been providing supportive services, including a bilingual crisis line, emergency shelter, walk-in services (in Salem and Woodburn), emergency transportation, accompaniment to hospitals and in courtrooms, and many other services for 50 years. Our program provides all of these services to individuals and families impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking in Marion and Polk Counties.

Attached are letters from community partners involved with the HOPE Plaza Housing Project. The HOPE Plaza project will provide housing, job training, and services under one roof in downtown Salem. The Center for Hope & Safety has brought together many community partners to provide the most comprehensive services possible. The attached letters are only three of the many committing services and support to the project.

Thank you for your consideration of the HOPE Plaza request.

Sincerely,

Mariana Lopez  
Center for Hope & Safety



**Marion County**  
OREGON

Health & Human Services

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[www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/](http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/)

RE: 2022 Supportive Housing for Individuals with SPMI

Marion County Health & Human Services (MCHHS) Department is submitting this letter of endorsement on behalf of the Center for Hope & Safety's HOPE Plaza Housing Project. Our agency has a long history of working with the Center for Hope & Safety (CHS) and we are excited to have the opportunity to broaden services available to individuals with severe and persistent mental illness that are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking in our community.

MCHHS strives to create a safe and welcoming community where all people can access high quality health and human services and are supported to achieve their highest level of health. We are committed to creating a vibrant community in Marion County, where all people have opportunities to live healthy, purposeful lives. MCHHS works with a wide array of community-based programs to make sure the highest quality services are being provided throughout our service area.

The HOPE Plaza Housing Project will provide new opportunities for our agencies to work together on behalf of survivors of violence. I have met with Jayne Downing, the Executive Director for CHS, to discuss how services will be provided through this grant application. We went over in detail the design of the housing and supportive services to be offered at HOPE Plaza and how their peer advocates would work to help individuals from the target population living there to be successful in permanent, low-income, accessible housing with wrap-around supportive services.

We have agreed on how we can work together to deliver appropriate supportive services to the target population residents. CHS has worked closely with Ann-Marie Banfield, Program Manager Acute & Forensic Behavioral Health at MCHHS, for more than 25 years. Ms. Banfield has provided guidance, training, and support for CHS staff and will work with them on this project, providing the appropriate oversight and support for the project.



**MARION POLK  
FOOD SHARE**

March 1, 2022

Jayne Downing  
Center for Hope & Safety  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for the HOPE Plaza Project

Dear Ms. Downing,

Marion Polk Food Share would like to express support for the Center for Hope & Safety HOPE Plaza Project. The Food Share works closely with the Center for Hope & Safety to reduce the effects of food insecurity and increase stability for victims of domestic violence in our community.

The Food Share is the regional food bank serving communities in Marion and Polk Counties. We are a private, nonprofit that works with hundreds of community partners to address food insecurity through root cause initiatives and food distribution programs. The Center for Hope & Safety has been one of our hunger-relief partners since 2013.

In addition to providing the comfort of a stocked and healthy pantry to their shelter, the Center for Hope & Safety has been an avid participant in all network meetings, sharing valuable information about their services with other partners. Center for Hope & Safety staff also provided a series of workshops covering the myths about domestic violence and providing guidance to equip network partners to handle with care individuals who may be in a dangerous situation.

Marion Polk Food Share looks forward to partnering in new ways with the addition of 20 units of low-income housing in the HOPE Plaza Project. Marion Polk Food Share and the Center for Hope & Safety are exploring an exciting partnership to offer "pop-up" food pantries on a regular basis at HOPE Plaza. This innovative way of providing healthy food will guarantee HOPE Plaza residents are on the right track to provide good nutrition for their families.

Please add Marion Polk Food Share to the list of supporters for the HOPE Plaza Project. We know our community will benefit greatly from the support of this vital project for survivors of violence. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Gaupe  
President & CEO

March 2, 2022

Jayne Downing  
Center for Hope & Safety  
605 Center St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for HOPE Plaza Housing Project

To whom it may concern:

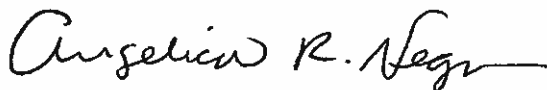
Legal Aid Services of Oregon partners closely with the Center for Hope & Safety (CHS) and is pleased to support their application for HOPE Plaza housing project funding. CHS services are a vital resource for victims of domestic and sexual violence in our community and the addition of permanent low-income housing will significantly strengthen the safety net for survivors.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) is a non-profit organization that represents low-income clients in civil cases. LASO's eight regional offices service the general low-income population throughout the state and two specialized statewide programs provide services to farmworkers and representation on Native American issues. LASO is an effective, high-quality legal services program committed to advocacy strategies that will have a demonstrable effect on community populations. The Salem office provides advice and representation to low-income residents in Marion and Polk Counties.

We place a high value on our partnership with CHS. Our domestic violence cases are in large part successful due to this partnership. CHS provides the social services and shelter our clients desperately need. This allows our clients to focus on their legal needs and to have the emotional strength to face their abusers.

We hope you will seriously consider supporting the CHS application for the HOPE Plaza Housing Project.

Sincerely,



Angelica R. Vega  
Regional Director