



February 16, 2024

Senate President Rob Wagner and Speaker Dan Rayfield
Co-Chairs Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Dear Senate President Rob Wagner, Speaker Dan Rayfield, and Committee Co-Chairs,

The Washington County Board of Commissioners is reaching out to request your support of Hillsboro's Year-Round Shelter project. As Oregon's second most populous county, we lack adequate shelter capacity to meet the basic need of people experiencing homelessness outside in our community.

Washington County is in strong support of the City of Hillsboro's \$3 million dollar funding request, which will not just create 75 new low-barrier shelter beds, but will also provide much needed supportive services to people experiencing homelessness to help them access housing. This partnership will allow us to deliver upon our shared goal of expanding supportive housing and homelessness services to meet local needs.

Due to the 24/7 nature of these beds and incorporation of meal service, accessible showers, laundry and belonging storage for shelter participants, this site will also help alleviate the pressure of homelessness on libraries, and other public spaces. This will have an impact on Oregonians regardless of their housing status.

This is a one-time capital ask, as the County is pleased to have provided initial capital funding and has committed to funding the operations of the site through the voter-approved Supportive Housing Services (SHS) measure. So long as the SHS resources remain available at the current forecast, the county can support the ongoing operations of this site.

Washington County is proud to partner with the City of Hillsboro on this shelter. We are confident that this project will bring regional benefits and help deliver upon our goal of expanding access to services for unsheltered people and the most vulnerable in our communities. **We ask for your partnership in helping make this a reality by supporting Hillsboro's Year-Round Shelter.**

Sincerely,

Molly C. Rogers
Executive Director
Housing Services of Washington County
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