

From Christina Aguirre regarding the Gladstone Head Start Center for ClackCoKids:

Clackamas County is identified as a childcare desert and ClackCoKids can impact the childcare crisis by continuing to offer publicly funded programming through Head Start and Early Head Start, as well as expand its services to also provide subsidized care such as ERDC and fee for service care, including after school care, by expanding the number of classrooms it has to operate. The former Gladstone YMCA located in Gladstone, Oregon, is ideal because it is currently zoned for childcare and has previously been licensed. ClackCoKids has been looking for alternate locations for the past 4 years and the YMCA properties are ideal and in fact, unique because they are exactly what ClackCoKids needs. ClackCoKids has engaged with an architect and several specialty contractors to determine what the building would need to bring it back to functionality again after being vacant since 2020 when the pandemic hit. While ClackCoKids has sought other funding, including a request to the Office of Head Start in July of 2023; the funding has not come to fruition. ClackCoKids is requesting \$4,160,000 to purchase the property and complete the necessary renovations which include a new roof; replacement of the siding which is known to grow mushrooms; new paint, and flooring throughout; in-classroom restrooms to maximize child safety and supervision and playground updates. These costs are based on actual cost estimates and the project is expected to be complete within 9 months. The site has a 5-6 classroom capacity and could serve approximately 97 children. ClackCoKids has the option to purchase from the YMCA at the agreed-upon price, but the agreement ends in March. ClackCoKids needs the funds immediately to capitalize on the option to purchase and to impact the childcare crisis in the immediate future; as well as the program funds to meet the ongoing needs. This ask is for one-time funding and I've included letters of support from both the Gladstone City Council and the Gladstone School District.