

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and Committee Members,

In 2023, the Centennial Community Resilience Network joined a coalition and community members from across our state to come together with a common goal: to fund community resilience hubs and networks. In the Spring of 2023, it passed unanimously out of Committee with bipartisan cosponsors. In 2024, 700 organizations applied for \$173 million in funding for local community-run disaster resilience projects. But because the ODHS fund was only \$10 million, they could only fund 96 projects.

We need more funding. Especially with federal funding sources coming to a halt, and extreme weather events increasing, we need services and programs that build trust with community members, so that in times of crisis, they know they can turn to trusted organizations like schools and churches to access power, shelter, food, and medical support. These organizations need to tailor their designs to meet the needs of their community members, because while a fairground might work in one community, a school or cache hub might work better in another. It's pricey to do this work: hubs need staff, supplies, reliable electricity, rent, and more.

We would also like to see language added to the bill to ask that ODHS provide some accountability to its applicants by publishing a report of where the funds went, and how much and which projects were awarded. Ideally, they would list other funding resources to help especially the unfunded projects find funding elsewhere.

In our community here in East Portland, we don't have any disaster resilience hubs, only hard-working and effective service-based organizations. In all of East Portland, there is only one cooling shelter to provide respite during the hot days of summer, and it's not family friendly. Especially for a community that speaks at least 102 languages, has a multitude of ethnicities, and a large houseless population, we appreciate that HB 3170 is equitable in its approach to funding underserved communities.

Please reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Centennial Community Resilience Network (CCRN, located in East Portland).
Simone.Crowe@gmail.com

Simone Crowe - CCRN Co-facilitator

Cheyenne delaCruz, CCRN Co-facilitator, ROSE CDC

Neel O'Donnell - District Safety and Security Coordinator - Centennial School District

