

February 27, 2025

Chair Pam Marsh
House Housing and Homelessness Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese Iverson and Anderson, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of House Bill (HB) 3644**, the establishment of a statewide shelter program under the Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS).

Church at the Park (CAP) is a non-profit located in Salem, Oregon that serves unhoused adults and families in Marion and Polk Counties. CAP empowers people to change their lives and exit poverty by providing vital low barrier shelter and employment services.

We continue to be thankful for the Governor and legislators continued initiative to support shelter programs statewide. With this support we have the honor of supporting five unique shelter locations. Three of our safe, supported shelters are in Marion County and two are in rural Polk County. Our transitional and housing focused non congregate shelters, provide people with both case management and peer support. Last year we served 1911 unique individuals.

The inclusion of vehicular Safe Parking programs in the statewide shelter program is essential. This low barrier option is needed for individuals fleeing domestic violence and families that do not feel safe in traditional shelters. We have run a successful scattered site model at eight churches supporting 163 people last year. 55% of those helped by our services moved onto more positive housing destinations.

The timeline to implementing the new program in OHCS is critical to maintaining current services. It is important to bridge the current funding with new program funds. We ask agencies to consider contract extensions for current contracts during the new program and procurement implementation.

One issue we would like to bring to your attention is a procurement barrier for service providers. Existing contract insurance requirements are based on standards for public

agencies and are unobtainable for providers like ours. There is an exemption process, however, it takes time and costs us money that would be better spent in service. We ask for direction to the agency to evaluate the need of this insurance coverage standard.

Thank you for your leadership and introduction of HB 3644. We support the commitment to sustain existing shelters that provides flexibility for regional coordinators. Your support of HB 3644 will allow us to continue serving the needs in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DJ Vincent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

DJ Vincent

Pastor & CEO, Church at the Park

dj@church-at-the-park.org

Annual Review 2024 :

Outreach



We have three unique outreach teams connecting with adults, families, young adults and rural Polk County. These team members are certified community health workers, peer support specialists, OHP assessors and trained housing assessors.

83 people to permanent housing
284 people to positive destinations
1,307 total people served

We are thrilled to announce the Ribbon Cutting and Open House for our NEW Dallas Family Shelter!

This project has been brought to life through the incredible support of PATHS, the City of Dallas, Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, and the Governor's Emergency Order.



Dallas Site

Safe Parking

Safe Parking Services Hub at our Portland Road Site: Day Center serving our Safe Parking guests

- mail service
- showers
- food boxes
- clothing closet
- case management



Three new churches will be joining the Safe Parking Program in 2025: Oak Park Church of God, Salem First Free Methodist Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

19 people to permanent housing
50 people to positive destinations
173 total people served

Sheltering



Village of Hope

We are partnering with the Early Learning Hub to offer workshops for parents with children aged 0-5 to help prepare their kids for kindergarten with three workshops focused on supportive learning and play.

97 people to permanent housing
125 people to positive destinations
336 total people served



Young Adult Site

Launch



Coral House

30 total people served
 C@P took over the Coral House in 2024. The house provides permanent supportive housing for 28 women exiting homelessness. It is a place bustling with activities and events thanks to our staff and volunteers!



Celebrating NEW HOMES



In 2025, we will be adding 32 additional beds at Village of Hope, along with much needed site improvements and upgrades!

44 people to permanent housing
61 people to positive destinations
209 total people served



CCS Family Site

35 people to permanent housing
48 people to positive destinations
94 total people served

At the Young Adult Site we offer access to counselors, caseworkers, peer support specialists and education partnerships with Chemeketa Community College. Guests have benefited from a strong staff and consistent core of volunteers.