



Providing Supports. Empowering People
Celebrating Over 40 Years of Service to the People of Umatilla County

March 31, 2025

Good day members of the committee:

I am the CEO of Horizon Project and submit this testimony in support for increased investments in Oregon's IDD community. Since the late 1970s Horizon Project has provided residential, employment and community living services for adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Hermiston, Pendleton and Milton-Freewater. With over 200 employees serving over 150 clients, Horizon is one of the larger employers in rural Umatilla County and the largest local provider of IDD services in the region.

Horizon Project receives 97% of its revenues from publicly funded contracts, a mixture of federal and state dollars administered through Oregon Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS). With these funds Horizon Project efficiently and effectively operates almost 20 group homes and three service centers. Our managers and support staff make all this happen, as the vast majority of our employees provide hands-on direct support as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) or Residential Coordinators.

Every year provider agencies like Horizon Project struggle to keep up with the rising costs of everything needed to care for and house individuals (program supplies, food, utilities). Likewise, we are continuously challenged to maintain a competitive, living wage for staff who are on the front lines, in the programs, supporting people with IDD while simultaneously often struggling themselves financially.

Thanks to the recently released DHS Rate & Wage Study, we know the financial investment needed to sustain and enhance this workforce. The number is unfortunately, but not surprisingly – VERY high -- over \$558M. Attached is an information sheet provided by Oregon Resource Association that outlines how increased funding can support your IDD Community Providers in the 2025-27 budget.

Horizon Project is adding our voice to others -- appealing for your support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, our workforce, and providers. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Terri Silvis

Terri H. Silvis, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer / Chief Development Officer

223 SW Court
Pendleton, OR 97801
Phone: (541) 278-4544
Fax: (541) 278-2777

608 N RUSSELL
MILTON-FREEWATER, OR 97862
PHONE: (541) 938-5658
FAX: (541) 938-5763

408 E. Main St., Suite B
Hermiston, OR 97838
Phone: (541) 567-8374
Fax: (541) 567-1028