



COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE TRUST

April 18, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

Community Resource Trust (CRT) is in full support of the **Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center** and the request for \$20 million to support this project.

Community Resource Trust is intentional and deliberate in every aspect of its work—from its projects to its partnerships. We thoughtfully engage with community partners and resources to deepen our impact in serving the community. Guided by input from community members, we listen and respond to reflect their changing needs and priorities. Our work spans across sectors, encouraging collaboration and shared purpose to strengthen outcomes. We seek out and partner with others who share this commitment to responsive, community-centered work.

Woodburn, a city of 35,000, **lacks critical community infrastructure and support**. Despite its size, it has **no community center**, no central gathering space, offers few accessible outdoor areas, and lacks small meeting space. Children have limited options for recreation. The area identified as a **childcare desert**, working families in Woodburn face significant challenges, struggling to access reliable childcare. The **poverty rate** is high, and there is no **central hub** where residents can access services or community resources. Local nonprofits based in Woodburn often must travel to Salem for the tools and support they need, and regional organizations that serve the greater Woodburn area **do not have a base in the community**. The Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center will directly address these needs:

- **Provide resources onsite** such as childcare for infants through school age, small business assistance, senior center activities, emergency assistance, household case management with Community Health Workers, parent education, and rental relief
- Serve as the region's **local nonprofit support and resource center**.
- Facilitate a collaborative team to serve as a **resource hub** for the greater Woodburn area.
- Bring **much-needed amenities** to the Woodburn area, such as a flexible community gathering space, outdoor recreation areas, and small meeting spaces.
- Facilitate opportunities for **growth and empowerment** for families and individuals.
- Commit 2 acres for the future development of 50 units of **affordable housing**.

All this would not be possible without the involvement, the collaboration, and the financial support of many **partners**. Examples of our non-profit organizations who are stepping up are Family Building Blocks, CAPACES, Catholic Community Services, Community Action Agency, United Way, Microenterprise Services of Oregon (MESO), Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, and Mano a Mano Family Center. The City of Woodburn is also supporting the GWOC.

The State stepping up with financial support is huge. I acknowledge that you have some very tough decisions to make in how you allocate limited resources, but you really will check all the boxes by supporting this bill. You will demonstrate that we have a path forward for our nonprofit community and their capacity to serve our neighbors, that we have resources to help families who want to better their circumstances, and that you value a private public partnership to address these issues.

The Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center will empower people's lives, bring people together, and increase our nonprofit community's presence in the northern region of Marion County. Community Resource Trust wholeheartedly recommends that the State of Oregon invest in this innovative and truly transformative project.

Respectfully,

Beth Hays, CEO

Community Resource Trust