

May 8, 2025



Joint Committee on Ways and Means –  
Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, OR 97301

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phone 541.322.6820 web [mtstar.org](http://mtstar.org)

Re: Letter of Support for MountainStar Family Relief Nursery's Capital Funding Requests

Dear Co-Chair Senator Girod, Co-Chair Representative Nosse, and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your support for funding towards MountainStar Family Relief Nursery's (MountainStar's) Phase 1 projects in Prineville and Madras. The total request for both projects is \$418,000 and would provide and improve permanent spaces for Relief Nursery work in both communities.

MountainStar's mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect through community support and therapeutic services that help vulnerable children and families succeed. We are the only program in Jefferson, Crook, and Deschutes Counties providing therapeutic classrooms, parenting education services, and family support targeted at protecting babies and toddlers who are at significant risk for abuse and neglect. MountainStar's programs are successful – every year over 97% of enrolled children remain safe from confirmed cases of abuse. Additionally, studies on the Relief Nursery model show that after families move on from our programs, over 90% have no further engagement with the child welfare system.

The MountainStar project in Madras, with a \$143,000 request, has already begun. Our staff and programs are operating out of a temporary location, and asbestos has been removed from the building. We are now seeking bids from general contractors and renovation work will begin this summer. The MountainStar project in Prineville, with a \$275,000 request, is ready to move forward with the building purchase when this funding is secured.

I ask for your support for prioritizing investments in prevention work, alongside emergent needs – in this way you can ensure that Oregon is a great place to live now and can be even better in the future. Thank you for the work you do every day in Salem on behalf of all Oregonians.

With deep respect,

Kara Tachikawa  
Executive Director  
MountainStar Family Relief Nursery  
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