



May 9, 2025

Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Attention: Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Nosse
Re: SB 5531

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

I am Brandi Tuck, Executive Director at Path Home, a nonprofit that empowers homeless families with children to get back into housing – and stay there. Our programs include Homelessness Prevention, Family Village Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing, and Basic Income Guarantee.

Each year, we serve over 600 families – about 1600 kids and parents, and our results speak for themselves – 98% of families move from shelter into housing, and 93% of families keep housing long-term.

Our services are more important than ever **because Oregon has more unsheltered homeless families than any other state in the country – at a rate 14 times higher than the national average.**

So we're expanding our services on our Family Village Campus in SE Portland. We plan to build 2 new buildings so we can be a one stop shop with shelter, permanent housing, and all the services families need to end homelessness for good.

We are seeking funding from the Subcommittee on Capital Construction to support the creation of a first-of-its-kind services center for homeless families that can be used as a model for other communities.

We will co-locate some trusted partners to provide the services families tell us they need the most – things like mental healthcare with Morrison Child & Family Services, domestic violence intervention with Raphael House & Self Enhancement Inc, or SEI, employment training with The DPI Group, and Childcare. You can learn more about our project in the attachment below.

This project includes 36 units of permanent affordable housing for families exiting homelessness, but we are not asking for help funding that part.

We request \$5million in lottery bonds, which represents only 12% of our total project budget. We will leverage an \$8million capital campaign from donors, \$16million in 9% LIHTC from OHCS, \$3million in new market tax credits, and some long-term debt.

We own the land, we have the plan, and now we need your support to end homelessness for families with children. Let's knock Oregon out of first place for having the most homeless families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandi Tuck", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Brandi Tuck
Executive Director
Path Home



Family Village Campus Expansion: Building a Brighter Future for Oregon Families

Request for a \$5 Million Appropriation from the 2025 Oregon Legislature

About Path Home

Path Home is a nonprofit organization with a 30-year history of empowering homeless families with children to get back into housing and stay there. Rooted in trauma-informed care and evidence-based practices, Path Home's programs serve over 600 families a year and support families in moving from crisis to stability:

- **Homeless Prevention** stops homelessness and related childhood trauma before they start by providing short-term rental assistance and case management to families facing eviction.
- **Emergency Shelter** provides private rooms and sanctuary for 17 families at a time. On average, families stay at Family Village Shelter for less than four months and 98% of families move from shelter into permanent housing.
- **Housing First** helps families move back into housing as quickly as possible, provides rental assistance, and retention services for stability. 93% of families in this program keep their housing long term.

The Problem

Oregon ranks worst in the nation for unsheltered families with children. Oregon has 14 times more unsheltered children than the national average. Housing instability for Oregon families is driven by two primary factors:

- Housing costs far exceed what minimum-wage earners can afford.
- Insufficient wrap-around services to support families in maintaining housing long-term.

While the Portland metro region needs an additional 50,000 affordable housing units, the lack of integrated, accessible services exacerbates this crisis. Families are forced to navigate a fragmented system, traveling across the metro area and enduring lengthy waitlists for basic needs like mental health care, childcare, and employment training.

The Solution

Path Home's Family Village Campus expansion will be a one-stop-shop for families facing homelessness and housing insecurity where they can access the resources, tools, and relationships they need to truly end poverty for good. This project will remove barriers to finding and keeping housing by:

- Building 36-40 new units of affordable housing for families in Portland.
- Building Portland's first co-located services and navigation center where families can access comprehensive support in one place.
- Offering coordinated access to childcare, mental health care, domestic violence advocacy, recovery support, and employment training through partnerships with on-site service providers.

This expansion ensures families transition quickly into housing, stabilize with rental assistance, and receive the wrap-around services needed to remain housed long-term. In 2018, Path Home constructed our state-of-the-art Family Village Shelter and, in 2022, additional land was acquired for this project. Construction will begin in 2026 and be completed in 2027.

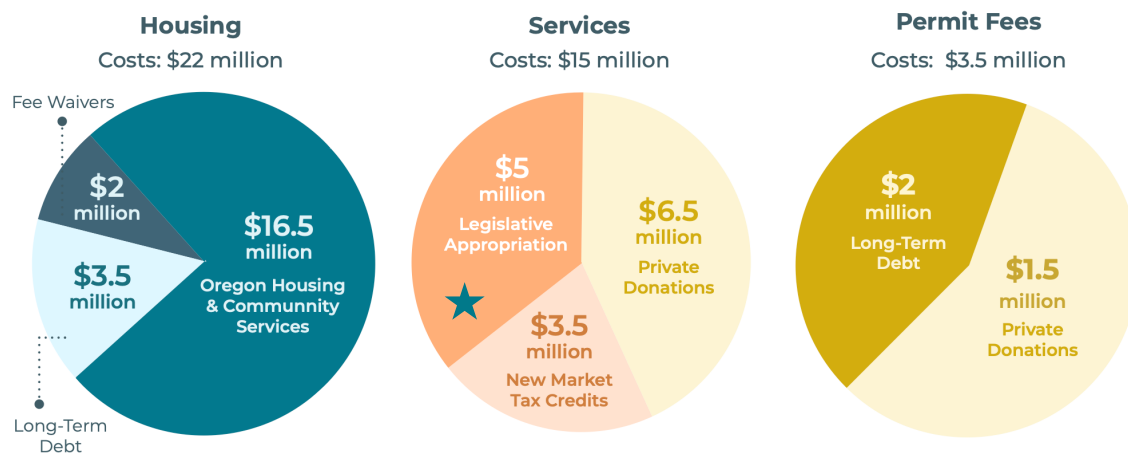
The Ask

Path Home requests a one-time appropriation of \$5 million from the 2025 Oregon Legislature to help fund construction of the wrap-around services building.

This investment will:

- Reduce family homelessness and prevent future cycles of poverty.
- Create a replicable model for addressing homelessness across Oregon & the nation.
- Position Portland and Oregon as a leader in innovative solutions to homelessness.

Capital Stack Sources & Uses: Total project budget of \$39.5million



Support for this project

“We need to address our housing and homelessness crisis **now**, and we need to think about how to prevent homelessness from continuing to happen **in the future** - an investment in **Path Home’s project does both at the same time.**”

- Representative Willy Chotzen, House District 46

“Families experiencing homelessness with their kids face so many challenges to getting re-housed. I’ve seen how effective Path Home is and 100% support their strategy to provide all the services families need in one place so they can get back into housing – and stay there.”

- Senator Khan Pham, Senate District 23

Contact Information

For further questions or to discuss this proposal, contact Brandi Tuck, Executive Director, at 503.719.2769 or brandi@path-home.org. Learn more at: www.path-home.org

Together, We Can Break the Cycle of Homelessness

With your support, we will create lasting change for Oregon families and set the standard for addressing homelessness statewide.