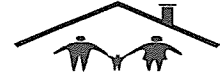


Family Self-Sufficiency Program

"Building Stronger Families In Our Community"



Re: Support for Individual Development Accounts in SB 120 -1

Dear Co-Chair Nathanson, Co-Chair Meek, and Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures:

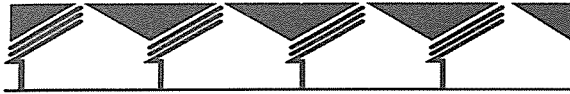
On behalf of Myself, my family, and the communities I live and serve (Marion, Linn, Benton Counties). I am asking you to please raise the cap on the tax credit that funds Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to at least \$14M, through SB 120 -1.

The Legislature created Individual Development Accounts in 1999. This matched-savings program provides participants with education and individualized support to reach their financial goals, including homeownership, home repair, higher education, purchasing a vehicle, starting a business, and retirement. The state matches participants' own savings up to 5-to-1 to make their dreams a reality. Over 19,000 Oregonians have participated in this life-changing program over the past 25 years – spanning every House and Senate district in the state.

In 2011 my husband and I were fortunate enough to be able to purchase our home in Jefferson Oregon utilizing an Oregon IDA. We worked with the Linn-Benton Housing Authority to save and educate ourselves on the process of buying a home & preparing to purchase a home (coming out of 2008 recession). We purchased our home (New) in 2011 for \$169,000. Today our home is assessed at over \$425,000.00!!!! Our decision and this program helped us build generational wealth as well as building a legacy in our little community of Jefferson. I have since been able to serve my community as a City Council member from 2021-2024. My daughter Brianna who now works for the City of Jefferson has also completed an Oregon IDA and is looking to purchase a home in Oregon in the next year.

In 2012 I started working for Linn-Benton Housing Authority. I knew that I wanted to be a part of an agency that was able to take our family to the next level (attaining self-sufficiency). I wanted to give back to and advocate for the programs that changed the trajectory of my life. Since working for the Housing Authority I have been able to assist many families to that next level of self-sufficiency utilizing the Oregon IDA. This program changes lives!!!!

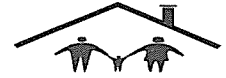
The tax credit that funds IDAs has not kept pace with inflation. While the credit has been capped at \$7.5M per year since 2009, the cost of everything that IDA participants save for has increased dramatically. Each saver needs more funds from the program in order to be successful, yet tax credit revenue has remained stagnant, prompting the



Linn-Benton Housing Authority
Affordable Housing. . . Our Commitment To Our Community

Family Self-Sufficiency Program

"Building Stronger Families In Our Community"



Legislature to provide supplemental investments from the general fund in each of the past three budget cycles. An updated \$14M tax credit cap will allow the IDA program to enroll 1,750 new participants each biennium going forward – close to the program's established service level of 2,000 new savers per biennium. (If the Legislature takes *no* action on IDA funding this year, the program will shrink much further, to enroll only 1,000 people per biennium.)

By raising the IDA tax credit cap to at least \$14M through SB 120, the Legislature can return the IDA program to solid financial footing. I urge you to include IDAs in this bill as supporting this ask will continue to provide opportunities for Oregonians to build a better future and in turn a better State of Oregon!

Sincerely,



LBHA FSS Coordinator/IDA Specialist

2011 IDA Graduate

Oregon taxpayer/Constituent

Public servant

Matching LBHA families with existing community resources to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

1250 QUEEN AVE. SE • ALBANY, OR 97322 • 541.926.4497 • FAX 541.926.3589 • EMAIL: mail@l-bha.org • TDD: 541.926.8338