

July 25, 2016

The Chehalis Tribe
Attn: Jeff Warnke
P.O. Box 536
Oakville, WA 98568

Dear Mr. Warnke,

On behalf of the Family Support Center of South Sound, I want to extend our many thanks for the Chehalis Tribe's support of our organization and local children and families in our community. The Family Support Center of South Sound is a nonprofit 501c3 multi-service agency located in historic downtown Olympia, Washington, founded in 1992 to provide families and survivors of domestic violence with coordinated supportive services in one centralized location, with the mission of "***Working Together to Strengthen All Families***". The Family Support Center seeks to build strong, resilient, healthy, self-sufficient families through a variety of collaborative programs and supportive services, with the goal to reduce the impacts of family and child poverty, homelessness, and family violence in the South Sound community. The Family Support Center's "one-stop-shop" model provides families with access to multiple on-site supportive services that work together to promote the safety, health and wellbeing of children and families. Programs include: ***Homeless Family Services / Pear Blossom Place***, the coordinated entry point for ALL homeless families with children in Thurston County, offering the County's largest 24 hour emergency homeless family shelter, 7 permanent affordable supportive housing units, rapid re-housing, and individualized case management; ***Parent & Child Education*** provides free parent education classes, family engagement activities, early learning, and on-site childcare for workshops/support groups; ***Family Resource Services Navigator Program*** provides families with clothing, food, shelter, hygiene supplies, holiday assistance, transportation, mainstream benefits assistance, employment, financial education, and resource navigation; ***Thurston County Family Justice Center*** is the second of its kind in Washington State, providing best practice collaborative and co-located community based and criminal justice services to domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, and sexual assault survivors; ***Supervised Visitation for Foster Children*** provides transportation and supervision of visitation between noncustodial parents, children, and siblings.

We are requesting the Chehalis Tribe invest \$10,000 in support for the cornerstone of family support services in the community, the Family Resource Services Navigator Program. This program is the most critical support service available to South Sound families in need. Whether a family whose electric is about to be shut off, a new mother having difficulty breastfeeding, a family facing eviction or foreclosure, or a single parent needing information about how to enroll in mainstream benefits, the Family Resource Services Navigator Program is there for them. According to the 2014 Thurston Thrives Data Snapshot, "Income is a determinant of health, meaning it influences how healthy you are and how long you live. Living in poverty and experiencing economic hardship is a threat to the health and well-being of children" (p. 14). Evidence shows that even a short period of economic hardship has lasting impacts on children's health, development, and education. Thurston County has the third highest rates of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the State of Washington, which affects long term health outcomes for generations. The more ACEs a person experiences, the higher risk of health issues later in life including alcohol and drug abuse, depression, intimate partner violence, suicide, and homelessness. The Family Resource Services Navigator Program is a strength-based, prevention focused, family support program that provides children age prenatal-17 and their parents/caregivers with walk-in crisis services based on the

evidence-based strengthening families protective factors framework (Center for the Study of Social Policy 2005). The goal is to strengthen families by coordinating community assets, providing comprehensive, individualized, formal & informal support services which promote all 5 of the protective factors for children.

Family Resource Navigators work to build caring, trusting relationships with children and their families. Services are provided in our Family Room, a welcoming space strategically designed to nurture family relationships and encourage parent and child interaction, attachment, and bonding. The Family Resource Navigators provide ALL families with children in need with culturally relevant, coordinated intake and a comprehensive needs assessment, crisis intervention, emergency financial assistance, eviction prevention, home visitation, case management, resource and referral, access to basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, transportation), holiday assistance, breastfeeding/new parent support, financial education, job support, healthcare navigation, benefits assistance, and more. Family Resource Navigators directly distribute and coordinate financial assistance from multiple sources aimed at increasing access, efficiency, and reducing hardships on children. Financial assistance is utilized to prevent evictions and foreclosure, sustain critical utilities necessary for children's health & well-being, and assisting families with payment of fees or small necessary purchases that benefit children when no other resource is available (birth certificates, children's lice treatment kits, children's educational and enrichment fees, etc.). The Family Resource Services Navigator Program provides children, youth, and families with bus passes, diapers, gas cards, food, school supplies, and hygiene supplies, and also coordinates resources and donations that provide all children and parents in need with access to our onsite free children's clothing, baby supplies and equipment (i.e. highchairs, strollers, slings, etc.), holiday and birthday toys, children's books, bedding, housewares, maternity clothing, and professional women's clothing for interviews or court attendance. Services are offered to any family in need at no cost, thus grant support is needed to continue offering this important prevention and intervention program in the community. Funding from the Chehalis Tribe is needed to help support continued operations of this vital community program and help to maintain capacity to offer quality staffing and resources to families and children every day. A \$10,000 investment from the Chehalis Tribe will ensure that over 1,000 South Sound families will receive concrete supports in times of need and have access to basic needs and supportive services that are essential to building strong families, resilient parents, and safe, healthy children in our community.

Again, on behalf of the staff, Board of Directors, and families and children served by our organization every day, we truly appreciate the Chehalis Tribe's support and critical role throughout our community. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,



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