



February 23, 2021

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair's Campos and Morgan, and members of the Committee,

Community Action helps build inclusive and caring communities across Oregon where people have equitable access to the services and resources they need to thrive. Community Action Agencies throughout the state fight poverty by providing a variety of services like food, shelter, housing, heating, weatherization, asset building, childcare, employment, and transportation for Oregonians in need, including seniors, children, migrant farmworkers, and those fleeing domestic violence.

Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO) is well aware of the significant need for rent assistance in local communities, with more than 89,000 Oregon households owing back rent, according to a recent report by Portland State University's Research & Action Collaborative. We are committed to working to help find solutions to strengthen critical rental assistance for families in need throughout the state. This past year during the COVID-19 pandemic, our network has served hundreds of thousands of Oregonians.

We believe in data driven solutions and think that it is critical that OHCS continues to strengthen their capacity to integrate data to help make educated policy decisions. Given the challenge of homelessness on our youth, we would urge the committee to consider amendments that connect rental assistance using a housing first model and a continuum of additional services based on needs of individual youth. This insight and additional data points that take into consideration regional differences are important to making sure that we are providing a safety net to prevent vulnerable youth from falling through the cracks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Jones".

Jimmy Jones, Chair
CAPO Legislative Committee