



March 2, 2021

Oregon House Committee on Housing  
Rep. Julie Fahey, Chair  
900 NE Court St.  
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Fahey and members of the Committee:

My name is Alexandra Hendgen and I write to you today as the Executive Director of Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP). I am here to highlight why our agency is gravely concerned by changes proposed in House Bill 2100.

As a service provider in Yamhill County of over 40 years, we are the bedrock of homeless prevention and homelessness services. A proposal that cuts current service levels to 80%, will have an astronomical impact.

A 20% reduction may seem insignificant on paper. I can decisively say, on the ground in Yamhill County it is not. *We have calculated the ACTUAL risk to critical safety net services and what it will look like. It will:*

- ***Dismantle our only Coordinated Entry system*** in Yamhill County, including the staffing behind it.
- ***Reduce immediately and potentially eliminate, our sole Street Outreach team***, connecting with our most chronically homeless population.
- ***Compromise over half of our Housing Stabilization staff*** that provide intensive case management, run permanent supportive/rapid rehousing/homeless prevention programs, and oversee three shelters. This is a culturally responsive team representative of our BIPOC community.
- ***Create a loss of adequate operation costs for at least 2 of 3 shelters*** that house families and veterans.
- ***Discontinuation of two significant subrecipient partnerships*** to create the first ever, year-round low barrier shelter beds in Yamhill County.
- ***Remove our only source for required federal match for our 5 HUD programs*** that serve key homeless populations suffering from mental illness, severe disabilities, and are domestic violence involved. Without these match dollars, we cannot sustain these additional grants.

These programs are intertwined, as is best practice, and cannot be viewed as unrelated. *Combined, these provide just under 100,000 nights of shelter/housing to low income individuals, families and children across Yamhill County annually.* In every case, a reduction or elimination of one will deeply undercut the purpose of another.

Additionally, there will be new barriers created in our local efforts around service growth and partnership.

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At the local service level, our authentic and purposefully crafted partnerships will be replaced by a one size fits all method from the State, which is far removed from what actually happens in our community.

The most recent example was navigating the sudden and new OHCS requirements with Out of the Cold 2 funds.

It required culturally specific partnerships be defined *only as* subrecipients, instead of permitting YCAP's existing culturally specific partnerships. We rapidly approached *seven of our partners. All turned down being a subrecipient for very legitimate reasons.* Each one supported current or only small expansions of partnership, with YCAP as the lead agency, which was "right sized" for our collective purposes. Concerns were expressed to OHCS about this after fast deadlines, hours of additional staffing time to meet new requirements and a delay from OHCS in releasing the funding during a pandemic and winter.

Following this process, OHCS was unable to answer all questions on where Yamhill County is falling short as a culturally responsive agency, in working with other culturally responsive/specific agencies, and in serving our BIPOC community. It was directly stated by OHCS, "*we do not know what is happening in Yamhill County*". Shifting funds from local partners to the state agency that doesn't know what is happening in our county isn't going to help serve the needs of our community.

Dismantling of current and effective safety net services, vague rationales, insufficient collaboration, lack of *any* data on how YCAP (alongside our current partners) serves our vulnerable neighbors and unfounded prescriptions to our rural community, *which mirrors what might only be possible in metro areas*, should be as concerning to this committee as it is to our agency.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Hendgen  
Executive Director

