



# CENTRAL CITY CONCERN

HOMES HEALTH JOBS

To: Senators Wyden and Merkley, and Representatives Blumenauer, Bonamici and Schrader

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area in your district. CCC serves 13,000 people annually through 2,100 units of affordable supportive housing, direct patient care through our 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers, makes 1,200 job placements annually through our Employment Access Center.

We need the federal government's leadership now more than ever. Our local leaders are working hard but are running up against very real financial and regulatory barriers to protecting our communities through the COVID pandemic and economic crisis.

## **We need federal action on:**

- Permanent Medicare telehealth rules** - Make the current temporary rules permanent so that FQHCs can continue to serve Medicare patients safely
- More rent assistance** - Please support \$100 Billion for rent assistance to ensure our most vulnerable residents don't end up experiencing homelessness again with an eviction on their record due to COVID and the economic crisis
- Employment support/social enterprise investments** - In past economic recessions, we have seen people who have struggled with poverty and homelessness left further behind during recovery periods. Please make investments for supportive employment and explicitly support employment social enterprises that can put people back to work quickly in supportive and safe environments.
- Medicaid Reentry Act** - Include language from this proposed legislation to ensure people who are released from prison and jail have access to medical coverage immediately upon release.
- Direct funding for local governments** - We are seeing local programs under threat of cuts; these are programs that don't rely on federal funding but are critical to our social safety net



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Below are comments from our direct service staff who are seeing the need for your action everyday:

**Michaëlle Robardey**, *Grant & per diem program (GDP) - veterans, Peer Support Specialist*, "All of our GDP clients/veterans are vulnerable in regards to their housing. We temporarily house them, but they work hard to get into permanent housing. This pandemic has caused every step to slow down. Our veterans are feeling anxious and less hopeful with decreased confidence in moving forward in their lives. Please don't fail them! They didn't fail us!"

**Annamarie Williams**, *Chez Ami Apartments, Peer Support Specialist*, "All these factors are very important to our community. I personally have seen families suffer and struggle hard to get back on top. We can't afford to keep seeing families on the side of the road due to job loss. People coming out of prison and jail deserve a new start, with recovery services in line and medical assistance upon their discharge would be a great need. Please help!"

**Ian Austin**, *Golden West/Housing Rapid Response, Assistant Case Manager*, "Allowing the individual states to flounder and sink would only compound, hugely, the future burden that the Federal side would have to shoulder, only at that point, the states would have already lost the capacity to help carry the load. Please don't shoot everybody involved in both feet with misplaced ideas of whose responsibility is whose. We are, all of us, in this together straight to the end, and that will be a much prettier end if we work as one. The states will be much stronger in the shared effort if you don't cut them off at the knees now."

**Lisa Bonner Brown**, *Flip the Script, Housing Specialist*, "I am asking that there is Reform with Federal Officers who destroy property when they enter into a home looking for someone. There is no need to put holes in doors when they enter a home, looking for a suspect. This causes the other family members in the home to now get evicted, once the property has damaged due to forced entry. This must stop!"

**Jennifer Hartley**, *Blackburn Center, Physician*, "I work in addiction medicine and primary care, and access to services is so critically important to preventing worsening problems for patients down the line. The most vulnerable populations have been further marginalized by COVID; I see the fallout daily. "

**Lea McLane**, *Letty Owings Center, Facilities Assistant*, "It is so important to protect the vulnerable and all the community. This is our mission! I stand together with CCC"

**Rachel Alquist**, *Recovery Center, Alcohol and Drug Counselor*, "My case load was cut in half due to relapse during COVID. We need to support our clients in every way possible. They deserve it."

**Jaye Hill**, *Recovery Center, Counselor II*, "Our clients were isolated during the initial portion of COVID without the "normal" support of AA and NA meetings. Because of the outreach and support of the CCC Recovery Center, the clients had consistent support to interrupt thoughts that could lead to a return to substance use."

**Laura Vences Mendoza**, *Blackburn Center, Certified Medical Assistant*, "Our community will need help more than never, the aftermath of this pandemic is uncertain."



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**Kim Hutchinson**, *Old Town Clinic, Clinical Services Manager*, “Our community's most vulnerable are least able to advocate in and navigate around systems and resources. Housing resources during this time allows people to heal and is the most affordable medical care.”

**Ashley Gutches**, *BBIS, A/R team lead*, “We cannot allow this crisis to disproportionately effect already vulnerable members of our community, or for people who cannot telecommute in their professions, or find other work, to lose their housing.”

**Vernetta Holden**, *Old Town Recovery Center/Mental Health services, Front Desk Supervisor*, “We the people need all the support we can get through this pandemic”

**Wendie Taber**, *Clackamas County LEAD, Case Manager II*, “With a voucher program we are housing a vulnerable population who are 50+ and disabled. Without this program and continued funding this vulnerable population will die on the streets. It is important to continue funding this program past one year, have supportive funds available for those to get into housing and who are struggling with possible loss of housing.”

**Laura Rogers**, *Hooper Detox Stabilization Center, Physician Assistant*, “Our Medicare patients are at the highest risk of contracting COVID. Allowing these patients to stay safely in their home has been a godsend. Many of our patients also don't have reliable transportation, or are unable to take time off work. Telehealth has made access to care much, much better.”

**Miles Sledd**, *Blackburn Center, Interim Operations Director*, “People around the country and in Oregon are suffering from the medical and behavioral health impacts of COVID-19. At Blackburn Center, we currently have a six-week waiting list for people to be assessed to enter behavioral health services, and the waiting list is only growing. Federal support for our medical and behavioral health safety net is essential to getting the USA on the road to health and economic recovery.”

**Vivian Lackey**, *Employment Access Center, Program Manager*, “Please support our work to assist folks toward career goals through access to skilled trainings, job readiness by social enterprise experiences, and job placement with career coaching support.”

**Jonathan Lari**, *Old Town Clinic, Wellness Services Coordinator*, “Since this pandemic started, I have witnessed an explosion of an already out of control unsheltered homelessness crisis in our city. On top of that, my apartment building has seen more move outs in the last few months than in the entire previous time we had lived here, and all of our friends working lower income jobs are stressed and struggling to make ends meet. Please help!”

**Ray Delcambre**, *Housing Administration, Nighttime RSSS Supervisor*, “Stable housing is extremely important during this Covid-19 Crisis. Where will sick people live to get well if they are evicted due to the economy. Please continue funding to protect Oregon citizens.”

**Guy Limasa**, *Employment Access Center, Director of Employment Services*, “The health and safety of residents are of great importance at this time. All of our service staff are on the frontlines providing essential medical, substance abuse



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treatment, transitional housing, and employment services at a critical time in our country and to reduce the spread of COVID-19 following Federal and State Health Guidelines. Please support our request for action.”

**Connor Lane**, *Old Town Clinic Pharmacy, Pharmacy Technician*, “Those currently struggling with homelessness and those on the brink of it are counting on you to fight for them. Make sure that their faith is well-placed!”

**Amanda McGovern**, *Learning & Development, L&D Specialist*, “How can we expect individuals to successfully "re-enter" society if the system continues to fail to model the care, compassion, consideration, support, and respect that is "expected" of its members? In education, we focus on front-loading as a strategy for success. "Front Loading is a strategy the teacher uses to provide students predetermined guidance and reminders for applying necessary skills, strategies, and behaviors to be successful in the day's learning." Instead of a "day's learning" I'd encourage you to replace that with "re-entering society". By supporting and facilitating access to health care for individuals who have been in prison, we have the opportunity to model, guide, and support an increased likelihood that they will have a successful reintegration into public life.

I've been fortunate in many ways. When I'm unwell or need support, I've received it from family, friends, Blue Cross, Kaiser, and/or had the luxury of taking sick leave. Not everyone has those options. It's often those who experience different challenges and barriers who aren't planned for, and thus, who are not supported.

How can we do better to listen to, hear, and value everyone, even when they may not be at the table to ask questions or make recommendations? Central City Concern's leaders have outlined a few options above. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service. Stay well.

Source: <http://www.reachassoc.net/library/files/frontloading.pdf>”

**Michelle Green**, *Housing Rapid Response at the Golden West, Assistant Case Manager*, “We need help, we need funding, we need plans, resources, engagement, empathy, and so much more if we want to become a good, functional, helpful, caring society. We've lost sight of that and don't seem to be trying to battle any of this. This really scares me, especially with all the protests, rioting, and pandemic we're experiencing right now. The world is coming to an end and we need to realize that us as human beings are the ones responsible for this. We need to band together, make a generous budget, make plans and get our city, country and world back on a good track and where there's help for anyone and everyone of any kind set up and ready to use if and when needed. We all need to do our part and come together.”



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From all of us at CCC, with special contribution from:

<b>Michelle Robardey</b>	<b>Annamarie Williams</b>	<b>Ian Austin</b>	<b>Amanda McGovern</b>
Grant & per diem program -veterans	Chez Ami Apt.	Golden West/HRR	Learning & Development
Peer support specialist	Peer Support Specialist	Asst Case Mgr	L&D Specialist
<b>Lisa Bonner Brown</b>	<b>Jennifer Hartley</b>	<b>Lea McLane</b>	<b>Rachel Alquist</b>
Flip the Script	Blackburn Center	Letty Owings Center	Central City Concern Recovery Center
Housing Specialist	Physician	Facilities Assistant	Alcohol and Drug Counselor
<b>Jaye Hill</b>	<b>Laura Vences Mendoza</b>	<b>Kim Hutchinson</b>	<b>Laura Rogers</b>
Central City Concern/CCCRC	Blackburn Center	Old Town Clinic	Hooper Detox Stabilization Center
Counselor II	Certified Medical Assistant	Clinical Services Manager	Physician Assistant
<b>Miles Sledd</b>	<b>Vivian Lackey</b>	<b>Jonathan Lari</b>	<b>Ray Delcambre</b>
Blackburn Center	Employment Access Center	Old Town Clinic	Housing Administration
Interim Operations Director	Program Manager	Wellness Services Coordinator	Nighttime RSSS Supervisor
<b>Guy Limasa</b>	<b>Connor Lane</b>	<b>Michelle Green</b>	<b>Ashley Gutches</b>
Employment Access Center	Old Town Clinic Pharmacy	HRR at the Golden West	BBIS
Director of Employment Services	Pharmacy Technician	Assistant Case Manager	A/R team lead
<b>Vernetta Holden</b>	<b>Wendie Taber</b>	<b>Adrian Martinez</b>	<b>Daniel Miller</b>
Old Town Recovery Center	Clackamas County LEAD	Office of Equity and Inclusion	Housing
front dest supervisor	Case Manager II	Equity and Inclusion Specialist	Housing Services Coordinator
<b>Kathi Carlson</b>	<b>Amy Simpson</b>	<b>Mandi Houston</b>	<b>Mariam Admasu</b>
BBIS	Letty Owings Center	HR	Office of Equity and Inclusion



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Practice System Administrator	Art Therapist/Substance Use Dependence Counselor	Recruiter	Assistant Director of Equity and Inclusion
<b>Jennifer Stein</b>	<b>Laurie Davis</b>	<b>Taylor Scanlon</b>	<b>Marissa Donovan</b>
Housing Administrative Specialist	OTRC - CORE 1 Mental Health Counselor	Recuperative Care Program Community Liaison	CCCRC Peer Support Specialist
<b>Cindy Ross</b>	<b>Andrew Simon</b>	<b>Dana Brandon</b>	<b>Benjamin Kirkwood</b>
Puentes Office Manager	Blackburn Center Clinic Coordinator	Supportive Housing Director of Supportive Housing	Housing Assistant Community Manager
<b>Brinn Culver</b>	<b>Doug Middlemiss</b>	<b>Andrea Hood</b>	<b>Billie Kay Stafford</b>
OTC PMHNP	BBIS Billing Supervisor	Blackburn Housing Community Manager	OTC Operations Manager
<b>Jacquelyn Hunt</b>	<b>Medina Kurney</b>	<b>Wayne Haddad</b>	<b>Veronica Hill</b>
CCC Chief Operations Office	CCC/Reentry Programs Associate Director	IT CIO	Admin/Accounting Accountant
<b>Gerald De Voe II</b>	<b>Miranda Rabuck</b>	<b>Mary-Rain O'Meara</b>	<b>Anne Arthur</b>
OTC/OTRC Janitor II	Administration Marketing Manager	Real Estate Development Director of Real Estate Development	Old Town Clinic Health Literacy, Education & Wellness Program Manager
<b>Sabrina Hindman</b>	<b>Allison Smith</b>	<b>Linda Hudson</b>	<b>Christopher Lewis</b>
Central City Concern Parent Trainer	LOC Treatment Assistant	Imani Center Director	Old Town Clinic Medical Assistant
<b>Andrew Nelson</b>	<b>Emily McCadden</b>	<b>Vivian Ton</b>	<b>Holly Herrera</b>
Old Town Clinic/SUMMIT Health Coordinator	Human Resources HR Specialist	Old Town Clinic Pharmacy Clinical Pharmacist Lead	Blackburn Center Clinical Services Manager
<b>Terri Von Kurthausen</b>	<b>Jake Mendenhall</b>	<b>Amanda Stone</b>	<b>Taylor Kaser</b>
Central City Concern Blackburn Pharmacy	Quality Management	EAC/CC Staffing	Blackburn Center/Hep C Program



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Pharmacy Technician	Quality Coordinator: Client Experience	CC Staffing Supervisor	Hep C Program Coordinator
<b>Katherine Stansbury</b>	<b>Arsalan Shah</b>	<b>Teiana Brown</b>	<b>Shalonda Sanders</b>
Blackburn - SUDs, DV Offender Intervention	Old Town Clinic/Pharmacy	Public Affairs	Blackburn Center Administration
CADC II	Pharmacy Ops Manager	Public Affairs Specialist	UDS Tech for SUDS Program
<b>Janice Biernacke</b>	<b>Betty Watts</b>	<b>Jack Keegan</b>	<b>Blaine Danley</b>
Old Town Clinic	STP	Health Services	On Call
Clinical Pharmacist	Peer Support Specialist	Manager, Telehealth Services	On call CBA/janitor
<b>Malinda Brown</b>	<b>Deidre Gordon</b>	<b>Davi Rohde</b>	<b>Kareen Leslie</b>
Old Town Recovery Center/Integrated Outpatient Team	IHART	Golden West/Supportive Transition and Stabilization	Letty Owings Center
Behavioral Health Assistant	Mental Health Counselor	Peer Support II	Case Manager II
<b>Brianna Sustersic</b>	<b>Miranda Tarrow</b>	<b>Daniel Garcia</b>	
Old Town Clinic	Old Town Recovery Center	Puentes	
Senior Medical Director of Primary Care	Medical Records Clerk	Director of Latino Services	