



Dear City and County Leaders,

We at [Central City Concern](#) (CCC) appreciate the proposed budgets from Mayor Wheeler and Chair Kafoury. These proposals show an understanding of the current needs in our community. However, we believe a few critical investments are missing and we recommend the following adjustments be made before the budgets are finalized. In this letter you will see our recommendations, comments from 32 staff encouraging these improvements and 174 co-signers from across our agency.

For both the City and County budgets:

- **\$200K for benefits acquisition** - Throughout the pandemic Social Security offices have been slow to enroll new beneficiaries and application timelines were dramatically extended. The federal government has now invested in regional liaisons to streamline and improve the application process. Now it is time for local governments to invest in the capacity for community-based organizations to help people get through the application process, especially people experiencing homelessness. Access to ongoing economic resources is a big step towards better stability.
- **7% or better increases in health and human services contracts to improve wages** - The current proposals allow for 0-4% increases in contracts, which is less than inflation and less than the increase we are seeing in housing costs. The city and county depend on community-based organizations to deliver human services across multiple departments and agencies. This work requires investment in a knowledgeable and skilled workforce to deliver effective and high-quality services.

For the City of Portland budget:

We are asking the City to make strong investments Portland Housing Bureau (PHB). There is only one more round to the Metro Bond funds, and then the City will have no more money to build new affordable housing. The Oregon Regional Housing Needs Assessment clearly states that affordable housing development must increase three-fold to address the current need. We can't defund PHB at the time of a housing crisis, so we are asking for:

- **\$33M for a land acquisition strategy using Project Turnkey as a model to replicate**
- **25% of returning Tax Increment Finance (TIF) set aside for affordable housing development**

For the Multnomah County budget:

- **Do better than flat funding for Culturally Specific behavioral health services.** We appreciate the county's verbal commitment to culturally specific behavioral health; however, the financial commitment is not living up to the verbal commitments. This is yet another year of flat funding which effectively works as a cut to services, especially with big increases in inflation like this year. These services have been flat funded for over 6 years, a double-digit increase would be needed to simply update to the current cost of delivering services. Underfunding perpetuates instability. We need you to do better.



Comments from CCC staff:

“Benefits acquisitions program has been servicing Multnomah County since 2008. The return in offset to the community since then, is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$125M of federal money following into this community, for the investment of less than \$11M since 2008. That's the quantitative return, the qualitative return is the security, hope and quality of life this program offers many of the most vulnerable citizens in this community. Without this program thousands of citizens would still be living in hopelessness and dependent on city and county funding for their basic needs.” *Kascadare Causeya*

“Increasing funding to health and human services contracts would be as beneficial to our clients as it would to the staff of CCC. A fairly compensated staff should lead to less turnover, therefore a more stable and lasting work force capable of building and maintaining trust within our client base. Folks in the community we serve are often distrustful, understandably, of healthcare, housing, and other systems that can be exhausting to navigate for even the most capable person. Having reliable help guiding them through these processes is important to their success. From entry level up, this is difficult, unglamorous, and emotionally taxing work in a market where cost of living is substantially above average. Wage increases that, at minimum, parallel cost of living increases should be standard practice.” *John Drislane*

“I was homeless and thanks to Central City Concern. I went through the Mentor program. Today I am 2years off drugs have a place to live and have been working. I am no longer taking from society but I work 40 fulltime and feel good that I am able to work and have a place to live. Portland needs more programs that actually work!!! thank you CCC.” *Paul Clissold*

“Central City Concern is a crucial piece of the puzzle that can help rebuild Portland into a city that we can all be proud of. Every day I observe my teammates collaborate on plans and offer services that help people in crisis. It is not easy work but they do this with dedication and grace. I am proud to be a part of Central City Concern and thank the City of Portland for support in our efforts.” *Amalie Roberts*

“Currently times are tough, thus the tough must get going. We need funding to make it happen.” *Billy Anfield*

“I would not have survived my 4th winter being homeless and living on the streets of Portland. Not if I had anything to say about it. CCC got me into SUDS and after 7 or 8 months into supportive housing. CCC helped save my life when I didn't want to have one. I now want the one I have. If it were not for CCC my cat and I would not be here right now.” *Rev (Gary) Irvin*
“I have been with the agency 8 1/2 years and the first 8 were working on the frontlines in direct client services. I have a passion for the clients /population that we serve. The needs for these clients are at an all-time high.” *Angela Cannada*

“Dear City Leaders, Please support these essential programs and initiatives that will enable CCC staff to continue to carry out much needed services and the creation of new affordable homes.” *Mary-Rain O'Meara*



CENTRAL CITY CONCERN

HOMES HEALTH JOBS

“Dear Powers-That-Be; The words we use are so very important; that is why I feel strongly we will all be far better served when we stop referring to matters such as are on the table today as "public spending" or "spending bill" or "spending" anything actually, because it isn't. Every dollar being discussed here is NOT being spent in any way shape or form. Rather, it is being invested! These dollars on the table today are being invested in our most valuable asset and greatest responsibility, namely the people that make this a community in the first place, and these investments will generate an ever-growing return that will prove both immense and far reaching. Healthy people are able to help others instead of causing harm and damage, so the return on investment is two-fold. Think about it, please... it only makes sense. Thank you.” *Ian Austin*

“Increased sweeps as a result of petitions by the Old Town Business Association represent an increased need for housing and immediate supportive services and case management for individuals targeted during sweeps. Additional funding for housing and supportive case management would decrease homelessness and increase odds of those placed to be productive members of society/employed/engaged in mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. Case management turnover rates locally are a direct result of wages not reflecting a living wage for our area while inflation and rental hikes continue to go on. Increased wages would decrease turnovers and provide stable support to the clients we serve.” *Scott Powers*

“For those who needs it the most.” *George von SLomski*

“Glad to sign the letter” *Brian Slack*

“I am in full support of Central City Concern's statement regarding the Mayor and Chair's budget proposals.” *Guy Limasa*

“Just had a FAN Program resident today - tell me all about her excitement and how empowered she feels to stay clean and sober. Post treatment and graduations - she lives in FAN Housing and went to the Medical Assisting Program - had externship job interview yesterday and got hired for externship and also offered full time employment when done! That is why funding is important - to keep families stabilized! It changes lives forever - for the good of family...” *Patty Summers*

“I live for my career at Central City Concern. What drives me every day to do my best; knowing we can change lives one person and one day at a time; the reason why I love to serve our community!” *Teri Adams – Gritzmacher*

“Please help our patients/clients get timely access to the services they qualify for—so many folks are struggling to get back on their feet, and delays have been especially punitive for some of the most vulnerable people we care for. Thank you!” *Richard Bruno*

“Please provide as much funding as possible. We are struggling to provide for our families due to the low pay.” *Kaysa Bouchard*

“I went through the 8x8 program and now I work with CCC they have been a huge help for me, they gave me the resources I needed to succeed and room to grow. I am forever grateful for the

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support and care I was shown they have helped me get to point where I am self-sufficient with over 2Yrs of clean time.” *Christopher Mulder*

“I would like to see money go to the homeless program so they can get off the street, I haven't seen this many homeless people in a long time. Family with kids.” *Sherry Remy*

“In the work I do, I am able to hear stories from our clients, often on a daily basis, who have regained their lives through the investments that we are asking you to prioritize. One story I heard is from a client who suffered from years of emotional and physical abuse from early childhood. She wanted a different life for herself and her soon-to-be-born baby. She entered CCC's Hooper Detox program and once stable, moved to supportive housing where she had her baby with the support of other new mothers and the staff of Mentors and Medical Professionals. She is currently living in CCC Housing with her very happy, healthy daughter. She is currently working towards going back to school to pursue a career in the criminal justice system. This is just one story of the people that will change their lives with the funding we are requesting. Thank you for your support!” *Juliana Lukasik*

“It is more expensive to lift people up than to keep them from falling in the first place.” *Zeke Harrington*

“It is such a privilege working with such a dedicated, compassionate, and effective team at CCC doing great work for the neediest of our great city.” *David Pierce*

“It shouldn't take years of denials to get SSI or SSD for people who really need that to survive, due to whatever ails someone that hinders a person that cannot work. I have seen this over and over and its heart breaking!” *Michelle Mooneyham*

“It takes no justification to clearly see the enormous need for housing in the present tense and the future planning and funding to address the out-of-control homelessness in Portland. We need not go any further but look at the despair in the faces and the human lives living on the streets of Portland's neighborhoods to support any and all efforts to eliminate the human suffering we see each and every day. "Stop homelessness by any means necessary" *Reginald Carlos Petry*

“I've worked for the PHB, I know the wonderful work they do. The PHB works hard to advance housing to as many houseless individuals. I have witnessed their dedication. They are amazing. People in housing crisis, they deal in people they can, Management, especially Leslie Goodlow work with heart.” *Tami Thrasher*

“Show the workers that they are appreciated and valued and pay them accordingly, without building staff/maintenance everything would fall apart.” *Joseph Sands*

“Supporting those who are houseless benefits the entire community! Please help us serve our city's most vulnerable individuals.” *Virinia Hovland*

“Thank you for supporting Health and Housing priorities.” *Ray Delcambre*



CENTRAL CITY CONCERN

HOMES HEALTH JOBS

“The BEST program has demonstrated 14 years of consistent success in helping members of the community obtain income in order to become more self-sufficient. This program is one-of-a-kind and is a service that is utilized by a variety of community programs and providers. Providing the support and services associated with obtaining disability benefits for community members allows them to give back to their own community in the form of rent and retail. The BEST process also encourages and sometime requires that clients are engaged in appropriate care which improves their health while also helping sustain various community programs and providers. The work done by BEST cannot be duplicated and has been limited by an inadequate budget. With additional funding, BEST can not only continue to serve the population that is unable to obtain income independently, but also help them to retain that income throughout time.” *Denise Keesee*

“We need wage increases to reflect the rising cost of living and the extra costs that are a direct social and economic result of Russia attacking Ukraine. Also, culturally specific programs are VERY invaluable and super helpful. And, affordable housing is an absolute must in this current society.” *Clarice Jordan, MSW*

“We represent those with severe disabilities in a claim for Social Security disability benefits”
Jennifer Gambill

“Whether we are at the end of covid or not we need to very much stay the course if we expect to continue the cause of getting those who want it into transitional and permanent housing!! Which is why all the more why we need to ratchet up our programs to continue to clean up this city and help those who are least capable of helping themselves-the houseless!!!” *Rob Gabrish*

Co-Signers to this letter:

Laura Recko, Associate Director of External Communication, Admin

Scarlett Aguilar, Communications Specialist, Public Affairs

Karen Chaput, Associate Director of Internal Communications, Administration

Donita Washington, Health screener, Old Town Recovery Center

Amy Simpson, Mental Health Specialist, Letty Owings

Dory Green, Counselor and Case Manager, Blackburn Center Primary Care

Veronica Hill, Accountant, Administration

Scott Powers, Employment Specialist, Employment Access Center

Hanna Walton, Recruiter, Administration

Angela Cannada, HR Specialist, Administration

Jon Boisvert, Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Blackburn Center

Theo Pham, Pharmacist, Old Town Clinic / Health Services

Linda May Wacker, Director of Outpatient Behavioral Health Operations, Old Town Recovery Center

Julie Sirabella, Insurance Specialist, BBIS

Chuck Sve, acupuncturist and crisis counselor, Old Town Clinic

Sharon Fitzgerald, Director of Integration, Office of Innovation and Integration

Holly Farrell, Certified Medical Assistant, Old Town Clinic

Sherry Remy, Community Building Assistant, Hotel Alder

MICHAELLE ROBARDEY, PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST (THW), VETS/GRANT & PER DIEM

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Sonova Aiken, Resident Services Coordinator, Charlotte B Rutherford
Roni St John, Director of Billing, Billing and Business Information Systems
Kendra Bailey, Employment Specialist, Employment Access Center
Cash Freitas, Clinical Informatics Specialist, Information Technology
Kim Leathley, Health Services Executive, Health Services
Tami Thrasher, Administrative Specialist, Old Town Recovery Center
Aneta Bujno, Registered Nurse, Hooper Detox
Cori McCrea, Office Manager, Housing Administration
Angelisa Thompson, Clinical Supervisor, Bud Clark Case management/BCC
Wolf Taylor, Certified Pharmacy Technician, Old Town Clinic
Desiree Catalano, Social Worker/ Behavioral Health Clinician, Old Town Clinic
Don Hogan, Help Desk Support Specialist, IT Service Desk
Christopher Mulder, Community Building Assistant, Medford
Andrea Valde, Clinical Supervisor, ICT IHART
Eric Oswald, Clinical Supervisor, Community Engagement program
Anthony Morris, Community Building Associate, Blackburn Housing
Kascadare Causeya, Director of Benefits Enrollments and Money Management Services, Imani/BEST
Russell Rawlins, Janitor 1, Old Town Recovery Center
JackLyn Smith, WEX Intern, Employment Access Center
Phil Shapiro, Psychiatrist, Old Town Recovery Center
Patty Summers, FAN Program Supervisor, Sunrise Place
Amalie Roberts, Community Health Outreach Worker, Navigation/ CHOW
John Drislane, Occupancy Specialist, Housing Administration
Robert Tsow, Lead Counselor Central City Concern Recovery Center, Central City Concern Recovery Center
Caitlin Partridge, Executive Administrator, OII
Ian Austin, Assistant Case Manager, Golden West Hotel / STS Program
Nichole Gallagher, CC staffing on call, Blackburn
Joseph K Chow, SUDS Counselor, Blackburn SUDS
Paul Clissold, Community Building Assistant, Medford
Christi Justice, Lead Resident Services Coordinator, Supportive Housing/Resident Services
Margaret Floberg, Events & Corporate Giving Manager, Public Affairs
Rob Gabrish, assistant case manager, Medford/STP
Nathan Cavin, OC Subacute Tech, Hooper Detox
Omar Arroyo-Vega, Community Building Assistant, Alder Hotel
Tomecka Hill, Resident Service Coordinator, Madrona Studios and Miracles
Joel Stegen, PA-C, Primary Care Provider, Old Town Clinic
Brian Slack, Supervisor, Blackburn Facilities
Michelle Mooneyham, Assistant Case Manager, Golden West /HRR Program
Stephen Baer, CCC On Call,
Philip Scott, Peer Support Specialists, Golden West/ STS
Ronnie Head, Community Building Assistant, Biltmore / Butte
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Richard Bruno, Senior Medical Director of Primary Care, Primary Care (Old Town Clinic, Blackburn Center)
Kelly Brown, Treatment Assistant, Letty Owings Center
Cruz McIntire, Assistant Case Manager (ACM), Medford - STP
Billy Anfield, Advocacy Coordinator, Flip the Script
Joseph Greene, QMHA, CADC I, Mental Health Case Manager, Old Town Recovery Center
Helki Watson, Receptionist, Blackburn
Stephanie Hunter, SUDS clinical manager, Blackburn SUDS
Wayne Haddad, CIO, Information Technology
Jennifer Gambill, Benefits and Entitlements Specialist, Benefits and Entitlements Specialist Team
Barbara Martin, Medical Director of Health Informatics, PA-C, Central City Concern
Marc Rizzo, Pharmacy Clinical Services Manager, Pharmacy
Zeke Harrington, Benefits Specialist, Benefits and Entitlements Specialist Team
Michael, Janitor II, OTC/OTRC/CCCRC
Teri Adams - Gritzmacher, Clinical Safety Assistant, OTC/OTRC - Administration Health Care Management
Jessica Neu, Project Manager, QI / Admin
Kaysa Bouchard, Supportive Employment Specialist, Old Town Recovery Center
Brandon Deyo, Complex Care Nurse, Old Town Clinic Summit Team
Daniel Epting, Peer Support Specialist, CCC Blackburn SUDS
Mariam Admasu (She/Her), Organizational Development and Racial Equity Manager, Human Resources
Havan Jones, Program Manager, Supportive Housing Housing Rapid Response Program
Juliana Lukasik, Sr. Director of Public Affairs, Public Affairs
Andrea Burrough, Lean Improvement Specialist, Quality
Julian Penny, Employee and Labor Relations Specialist, Administration
Malinda Brown, Mental Health Counselor, OTRC/IO
Reginald Carlos Petry, Housing Specialist, Flip The Script
Marco Carter, Community Manager, CBR and River Haven
Aly Simons, STS Supervisor, Golden West, HRR/STS
Dana Kleinhesselink, Director of Development, Public Affairs
Miranda Tarrow, Medical Records Clerk, Old Town Recovery Center
Jennifer Stein, Executive Coordinator, Housing
Nicole McKnight, FNP, Blackburn Center/Primary Care Clinic
Maeve Connor, Communications Specialist, Public Affairs
Don Vidal, Medical Coder, BBIS
Apurv Shah, Quality Business Partner, OTRC/Quality
Chase Bissett, Project Manager, Project Management Office
Amanda Grogan, OnCall Trainee, Employment Access Center
Colin Newman, IT Business Analyst, Enterprise Applications
Stephen Murphy, IT Business Analyst, Enterprise Applications
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Katie West, Behavioral Health Specialist, Old Town Clinic Behavioral Health Team
Kim Hutchinson, Clinical Services Manager, Old Town Clinic
Aaron Conville, Mental Health Counselor, OTRC/BCCM
Petrus Oliphant, Pharmacist, Old Town Clinic Pharmacy
Cruz McIntire, Assistant Case Manager, Medford-STP
Kristine Kelley, On-Call Staff, Employment Access Center
Trent Gay, Program Manager, Employment Access Center
Jordan Wilhelms, Assoc. Director, Recuperative Care Program
Steven Gilroy, Peer Support Specialist, Chez Ami
Stephen Wehrer, Project Manager, Home office
Daniel Miller, Yardi Specialist/Revenue Assistant, Housing Administration
Billy Wright, Community Maintenance Manager, Housing
Tammy Hendon, Case Manager II, PSH Chez Ami
E.V. Armitage, Executive Coordinator, Administration
Kathi Carlson, Practice System Administrator, BBIS
Sara Love Sanderson, Community Liaison, Recuperative Care Program
Billie K Stafford, Client Access Ops Manager, Old Town Clinic
Medina Kurney, Associate Director of Culturally Specific Re-entry programs, Henry/Flip the Script
LaNae Lawrence, Central Registration, Blackburn
John Cairns, Employment Specialist, Employment Access Center
Angela Gear, Revenue Cycle Manager, BBIS
Michelle Roberts-Dearing, Contracts Specialist, Admin
Mary-Rain O'Meara, Senior Director Community Development, Community Development/Housing
Kayla Humphrey, counselor II, Recovery Center
Toni Burton, Certified Medical Assistant, Blackburn Center
Joseph Sands, Community Building Assistant, Henry building
Terrence Zukoski, Associate Facilities Director, Facilities
Brenda Michel, Administrative Assistant (and Portland Peace Corps Association Board Member), CCC's Administrative Office
Lisa Keppinger, Acupuncture Lead, Old Town Clinic
Reese Neufeld, Asset Manager, Housing Administration Dept.
Virinia Hovland, Nurse Practitioner, Blackburn Center Primary Care
Kyra Spengler, Treatment Assistant, Letty Owings Center
Brinn Culver, PMHNP, Old Town Clinic
Shane Durham, Client Access Operations Manager, Blackburn Center
Wendie Taber, Case Manager II, Clackamas County LEAD
Kelly Smith, Intake Coordinator, Old Town Recovery Center
Oscar Solorio, Purchasing Manager, Main Administration
Duncan Stenzel, Administrative Support, Supportive Housing
Geri Horning, Receptionist, Blackburn
Sarah Porter, HRBP Manager, Admin
Rachel Maas, Senior Sustainable Development Manager, Housing
Kaeli Graffuis, Mental health counselor, Old Town Recovery Center
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Juan Franco, Organizational Development and Racial Equity Manager, Administration Building/
Human Resource
Denise Keesee, Benefits and Entitlement Specialist / Community Liaison, BEST
Lydia Mitchell, Behavioral Health Specialist, Old Town Clinic/Summit Team
Guy Limasa, Director of Employment Services, Employment Access Center
Maya Edelstein, Major Gifts Officer, Public Affairs
Debra Lambourn, Systems Analyst, Administration
Dennis Falcione, Clinical Social Worker, Old Town Clinic
George von Slomski, Maintenance 2 worker, Housing
Paule Threet, Pharmacy Technician, Old Town Clinic
Erika Tarjan, Mental Health & Addictions Case Manager, Old Town Recovery Center
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Ray Delcambre, Housing Nighttime Community Manager, Property Management
Amalie Roberts, Community Health Outreach, Blackburn Center
Joey Johns, Associate Director of Supportive Housing and Re-Entry Programs
Stephanie Ferretti, Community Building Assistant, River Haven
Rev (Gary) Irvin, Community Building Assistant, River Haven
Gary Cobb, Community Outreach Coordinator, Public Policy

Since 1979, the Portland community has trusted Central City Concern to help people create meaningful, long-term change. Every year, we serve more than 13,000 people experiencing or at risk of homelessness with affordable and supportive housing, person-centered health care, addiction recovery and employment assistance. But we can't do it alone.