

**Ruth Stellmacher**

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**From:** T.J. Putman <tj@familypromisemwv.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 3:03 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** RE: Annual Action Plan  
**Attachments:** 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan Letter.pdf

**Categories:** Council Dox

Attached is the Family Promise response to the City of Salem's Annual Action Plan.

Please let me know if I need to do anything else to get it into the record.

Thanks,

T.J.

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**T.J. Putman**

Executive Director | Family Promise of the Mid-Willamette Valley

1055 Edgewater St NW, Salem, OR 97304

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*Because every child deserves a place to call home.*



May 20, 2019

Honorable City Council Members,

The Board of Trustees at Family Promise (Formerly Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network) is extremely thankful for the HOME-TBRA funding proposed for the next budget cycle. Without your participation in our program over the years, we would not be able to fulfill our mission supporting families and children facing homelessness in our community. However, we are disappointed on behalf of our board, staff and low-income neighbors, with the recommendation from the City to not support our CDBG funding request, and respectfully request you reconsider.

As an active member of our community for 20 years, Family Promise has continued to grow and expand our services to meet the changing needs of homelessness in our community. We know once a family becomes homeless, it becomes increasingly more difficult to regain both housing and economic stability. Our Case Managers work diligently to tailor services to best meet our clients where they are, and help them navigate the crisis of housing insecurity and homelessness. Our Case Managers do this by providing homeless diversion, emergency rental assistance, trauma-informed case management, community partner referrals and compassionate, ongoing support.

Funding from the City of Salem supports our four critical needs in our community: Interfaith Hospitality Network (Emergency Shelter), homeless prevention and our emergency response program. With funding from the city, we expected to realize the goals listed below:

- 100% of homeless families who complete our emergency shelter program will move into permanent housing
- 100% of homeless families that receive homeless prevention assistance will remain housed after one year
- 95% of graduates will receive case management support once they move into their own home
- 90% of homeless households that work with our Financial Counselor will improve their financial situation

The CDBG funding request supports case management services for all families in our program. Without these funds, our program will realize a 20% reduction in staffing for an already lean agency, and attaining our program goals will become progressively more difficult. Family Promise has been a consistent recipient of CDBG funding since 2015. We have proven ourselves to be excellent stewards of those funds meeting our programmatic goals and outcomes with no negative findings in our history.

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We understand there are competing requests for the funds and it is difficult to weigh and appropriate these requests equitably. We want to highlight however that our program supports not just the immediate needs of families experiencing homelessness, but provides prevention and support services that foster sustainable methods for housing and economic security. These initiatives are not only vital to the families we serve, but also prove to be cost reductive to our community. We believe that is an important distinguishing attribute of our program to understand.

Family Promise is also the only emergency shelter available that serves the entire family with children in the mid-valley. At last count known count there were 1,175 students in the Salem-Keizer School District experiencing homelessness. HUD's 2018 report to Congress shows that Oregon, again, leads the nation in unsheltered families with children, with 54.3% of our state's homeless family population not having access to a safe shelter. Knowing these figures, we believe it is negligent of our community to reduce the resources available to families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

As members of the Board for Family Promise, we ask you to please reconsider your decision regarding CDBG funding allocation, all or in part. We will be happy to answer any further questions or concerns you may have at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Family Promise Board of Trustees

Dwayne Hilty  
Mette Mosquera  
Janice Maldonado  
Carl Cramer  
Cherie Renae Atiyeh  
Michael Lamb  
Mat Nyquist  
Miriam Haugen  
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