

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner

DATE: August 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Letter of support to Commerce for Olympic Neighbors

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Olympic Neighbors has been in operation for five years and is the only organization developing supportive housing specifically for this population in our county at this time. Their services remain full with a waitlist. Their clients benefit greatly from their inclusive services and are integrated in a meaningful way and seen as valuable, contributing members of the local community. They are pursuing this grant to meet some of the unmet demand.

ANALYSIS:

Funding for Olympic Neighbors' Group Home will result in affordable and supportive housing for 6 extremely low-income adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in Jefferson County. ON will also provide 24-hour staff support to the clients who will live in the house.

This project aligns with the County's commitment to affordable housing and homeless housing programs. According to the US Census Bureau the Area Median Income for Jefferson County is \$59,968. Olympic Neighbors' clients earn under \$13,000 per year, putting them in an extremely cost burdened category for housing. Olympic Neighbors' clients also require some level of staff support to live in the community.

By creating affordable and supportive housing for people with IDD we can ensure that our community is one of inclusion and diversity.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Send letter

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

8/18/23
Date

August 21, 2023

Housing Trust Fund
Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

Re: Support for Olympic Neighbors – Jefferson County

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please accept this letter of support for Olympic Neighbors application for funding Olympic Neighbors' Group Home, a project that will result in affordable and supportive housing for 6 extremely low-income adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in Jefferson County. Olympic Neighbors will also provide 24-hour staff support to the clients who will live in the house.

This project aligns with the County's commitment to affordable housing and homeless housing programs. According to the US Census Bureau the Area Median Income for Jefferson County is \$59,968. Olympic Neighbors' clients earn under \$13,000 per year, putting them in an extremely cost burdened category for housing. Olympic Neighbors' clients also require some level of staff support to live in the community. By creating affordable and supportive housing for people with IDD we can ensure that our community is one of inclusion and diversity.

Olympic Neighbors has been in operation for five years and is the only organization developing supportive housing specifically for this population in our county at this time. Their services remain full with a waitlist. Their clients benefit greatly from their inclusive services and are integrated in a meaningful way and seen as valuable, contributing members of the local community.

We urge you to fund Olympic Neighbors' application and to help ensure that people with IDD can thrive in their communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kate Dean, Chair
District 1

Greg Brotherton
District 3

Heidi Eisenhour
District 2