



# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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November 21, 2017

Subject: Letter of Support – Funding for Head Start of Yamhill County

To Whom It May Concern:

The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners unanimously supports an application by Head Start of Yamhill County (HSYC) for refunding of its Head Start and Early Head Start programs. We have always believed in Head Start as a critical support system to help families learn to be better parents, and to prepare children and families for public school.

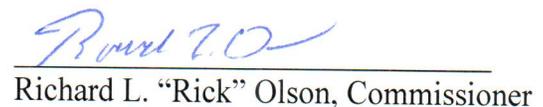
HSYC provides critical support services including mental health, public health, public transportation for families, TTRS housing and services for families in addictions recovery, staff training opportunities, YCCO and Early Learning Council representation and participation of public health staff on the Health Services Advisory Committee. In the past year alone HSYC has been able to formalize collaborative work with all public school districts within Yamhill County as well as members of our Early Learning Council. Data from Yamhill County's 2015 and 2016 Kindergarten Readiness shows that children who attend HSYC for five years come to school more ready for kindergarten in the areas of self-regulation, interpersonal skills, and approaches to learning than all other 5-year-olds. Head Start families also reap long-lasting benefits from maintaining association with our community partners as children move on through school and life. All of the services HSYC provides make a tremendous difference in the success of these families, oftentimes as their only regular source of encouragement and support.

We believe Yamhill County Head Start programs are extremely important to the citizens of Yamhill County. Agencies and individuals involved in early childhood development and family services, including the Yamhill Community Care Organization, recognize HSYC for its leadership within these fields. Funding HSYC as fully as possible will continue the comprehensive programs that are needed to address the whole child and the whole family to encourage persistent strength and self-reliance. The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners strongly encourages favorable consideration of HSYC's refunding grant application.

Sincerely,

  
Stan Primozich, Chair

  
Mary Starrett, Vice-Chair

  
Richard L. "Rick" Olson, Commissioner

Accepted by Yamhill County  
Board of Commissioners on  
11-21-17 by Board Order  
# 17-485