

Appendix E

Letters of Community Support



March 22, 2024

Molly Rogers
Executive Director
Housing Authority of Washington County
Adams Crossing MS, 63 161 NW Adams Ave., Suite 2000
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Dear Director Rogers,

The City of Vancouver is pleased to support the coalition application led by Washington County for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) to fund energy efficiency retrofits, with a focus on publicly owned affordable housing units.

As the second largest city within the Portland-Vancouver MSA, Vancouver has been a leader in Southwest Washington on carbon emission reductions. The City's climate goals, adopted in 2021, call for carbon neutrality for both municipal operations and the broader community by 2040. The MSA's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) is well aligned with the Vancouver Climate Action Framework and this application would implement PCAP measure Res-1: Expand existing residential energy efficiency retrofit programs, with a focus on low-income households.

Two of the Vancouver City Council's strategic budget priorities are climate and equity, and this application truly exists at the intersection of the two. The Portland-Vancouver metro area faces a housing crisis, like many communities along the West Coast. More housing, and especially more publicly owned affordable housing, is a key instrument for providing workforce housing and preventing increased incidents of homelessness. By focusing on existing affordable housing units, this application allows those members of the Low Income and Disadvantage Communities to realize the benefits of energy efficiency retrofits through lower monthly utility costs.

This application will allow public agencies to provide comprehensive energy efficiency improvements to many older, less-efficient homes, reducing GHG and pollutant emissions and increasing residents' climate and economic resiliency. Our region continues to experience the impacts of climate change – hotter summers, colder winters, and increased exposure to wildfire smoke – and this application will ensure that our lowest income residents aren't disproportionately impacted.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Lande". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aaron" and last name "Lande" clearly distinguishable.

Aaron Lande
Program and Policy Development Manager



600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov

March 22, 2024

Molly Rogers
Executive Director
Housing Authority of Washington County
Adams Crossing MS, 63 161 NW Adams Ave., Suite 2000
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Dear Director Rogers,

Metro is pleased to support the coalition application led by Washington County for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) to fund energy efficiency retrofits in publicly owned affordable housing units.

As the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for greater Portland, Metro works to ensure that agencies across the region meet state and regional climate goals by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Metro led the development of the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for the Portland-Hillsboro Vancouver metropolitan statistical area (MSA), and this application would implement PCAP measure Res-1: Expand existing residential energy efficiency retrofit programs, with a focus on low-income households.

The Portland-Vancouver MSA has experienced skyrocketing housing costs over the last 15 years. We need to create more affordable housing units - and we must also maintain the units we have. Our goal is to enable as many people as possible to take advantage of the metro region's walkable neighborhoods, high-quality transit service, and access to jobs and amenities. This project, which will provide energy efficiency retrofits for 907 units of publicly owned affordable housing throughout the metro area, will provide cost-effective GHG reductions while also reducing costs for members of Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities. It will enable public agencies to make energy efficiency improvements to many older, less-efficient homes. This will save residents money – which is especially critical at a time when our region is facing utility rate increases of nearly 17 percent.

Metro convenes agency partners to share information and promote best practices and administers a variety of programs that fund affordable housing programs and capital projects. As a partner on this project, Metro would provide opportunities for agencies across the metro area to learn about this effort and discuss how it could inform other efforts to retrofit existing affordable housing and lower energy costs for low-income residents in the region. Thank you for leading this important grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Ciarlo".

Catherine Ciarlo
Planning, Development, and Research Director



Our Mission:

To coordinate a regional workforce system that supports individual prosperity and business competitiveness.

Executive Board

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March 22, 2024

Molly Rogers

Director, Department of Housing Services

Washington County

Adams Crossing MS, 63 161 NW Adams Ave., Suite 2000

Hillsboro, OR 97124

Dear Director Rogers,

Worksystems, Inc. is pleased to support the coalition application led by Washington County for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) to fund energy efficiency retrofits in publicly managed affordable housing units.

Worksystems, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that pursues and invests resources to improve the quality of the workforce in Multnomah and Washington Counties in Oregon. As the local workforce development board for the Portland metro area, we design workforce development programs delivered through a network of community-based partners to help people get the skills and training needed to go to work and advance in their careers. Our area of focus is developing partnerships and programs to help underserved populations overcome poverty and increase prosperity through career-track employment.

In 2022 we were awarded a Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) grant by the City of Portland to prepare BIPOC and low-income residents for clean energy careers. As part of this work, we are developing a targeted sector strategy for the clean energy sector and have hired a dedicated staff person for clean energy work, that has begun the buildout of a clean energy career coaching network and an industry panel made up of labor, employers, CBOs and training providers to help inform the regional workforce investment needs for this sector.

This project, which will provide energy efficiency retrofits for 907 units of publicly-owned affordable housing throughout the metro area, will be an important step enabling our region's transition to cleaner energy. Worksystems is excited to support this project by leveraging the public workforce system to ensure that the economic opportunities resulting from this work are equitably accessible to all in the Portland Metro Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Gihring", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Patrick Gihring – Chief Program Officer