



August 23, 2022

To: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
Re: ReVillage Expansion Status Update

To our Board of County Commissioners:

Greetings! We are excited to share with you an update on our expansion progress after having been approved for American Rescue Plan Act funds in late 2021.

From January through May 2022, the ReVillage board of directors undertook a planning and visioning process to establish next steps toward our goal: establishing four new ReVillage co-op childcare centers in Central Oregon. We were accompanied in this process by a business coach as well as development consultants, in partnership with Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council.

The first priority to come out of that process was to shore up the sustainability of our first co-op site in terms of staffing, capital and environmental improvements, and operations. We went through an intentional hiring process to bring in a gifted young leader who now directs our first co-op center at First Presbyterian Church and will lead our second center as well. She has brought needed wisdom to completing the start-up process for this first site so that its operations are replicable— an essential aspect to our expansion.

Our second priority has been to apply and be approved for Preschool Promise, a statewide program that contracts with high-quality providers to offer free full-time child care to families who qualify. The process was intensive but absolutely worth our time and resources.

Our third priority has been to build relationships with Bend Church United Methodist at 680 NW Bond St. in downtown Bend to move toward the use of their three empty upstairs classrooms. This process has included large capital improvements and remodeling; working with City (Planning and Building) partners to get a change of use permit; contracting with a design professional; negotiating terms with church partners; and planning a strategy for enrollment. At this juncture, we are thrilled to say we plan to open on October 15, 2022, with 20 high-quality, full-time childcare slots for children ages 3-5. Ten of these will be exclusively reserved for Preschool Promise students; the other ten will be reserved for private-pay families. Their rates will remain relatively low, as is our model. (Currently, ReVillage private-pay families are charged \$350 per month for full-time care, in addition to the hours they commit to participate in the co-op.)

With this new site opening, we will now be able to enroll younger children at our first site, ages 18-35 months, ensuring we are serving a needed demographic in Central Oregon. When the Bend Church site opens, we will have doubled ReVillage's enrollment.

Our fourth priority has been shoring up our staffing plans and our hiring protocols. As every single childcare provider in Central Oregon knows, staffing is the largest barrier to providing quality care. Because of this challenge, we were invited to participate in Neighbor Impact's Fast-Track teacher training program—also an ARPA recipient—and have recently welcomed our first teacher trainee onto our team. This requires more intentional supervision and training, but we are proud to have set aside some of our capacity and funding to invest in this process for the sake of our long-term sustainability.

This fall, we are expanding our capacity by strategically building our board; revising our policy documents so that they appropriately match our mission and vision; and having strategic meetings with new partners in Sisters and Sunriver. We plan to plant our next co-op sites in these two locations over the next two years.

Thank you for your trust and vision.

Respectfully submitted,

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