2017
A legislative policy agenda for Oregon’s kids
CHILDREN’S
AGENDA
United for Kids has one simple goal: to make Oregon the best place to be a kid. To do that, Oregon’s children need a strong and unified voice advocating for them. United for Kids connects and amplifies the collective voice of pro-child Oregonians and organizations to promote public policy change and shared investments that benefit children’s health, safety, education and economic security. United for Kids closes the gap between the public concern for kids and meaningful support of pro-child policies.

Hosted by Children First for Oregon, United for Kids includes advocates, businesses, service providers, labor groups, funders, faith communities, and elected leaders across Oregon. Find out how to get involved and a list of supporters at www.ORUnitedforKids.org.

At Children First for Oregon, our mission is to make long-term, systemic change by advocating for policies and programs that strengthen families and support children’s health, safety and education.

Children First for Oregon is pleased to convene and coordinate the 2017 Children’s Agenda as part of our United for Kids pro-child movement. The Children First Board and staff support and appreciate the work of our advocacy colleagues who work in policy arenas impacting Oregon’s children and families. As an organization, Children First endorses the policy proposals incorporated in the 2017 Children’s Agenda.
Oregon’s Children: The Best Investment

When the United for Kids Children’s Agenda was formed in 2015, we had what most “initial public offerings” have: the firm belief that we were on to something. During that first year, 65 organizations joined us—united in the knowledge that, together, we can improve children’s lives. In 2017, our “portfolio” of partners has grown to over 90 organizations! A successful venture, by any standard.

But why use financial language to talk about kids’ advocacy? Because no investment garners greater returns than the investment in children. From stable housing and food on the table, to robust early learning programs tied into vibrant K-12 communities, to health insurance coverage for every child, decades of data support the long-term dividends that these programs and services provide. It is unrealistic to cut investments and expect successful outcomes. It doesn’t work that way in business and it doesn’t work that way for kids.

The Legislature must act.

The Legislature must raise the revenue required to make the investments in children that will guarantee their future, and our future as a state. The policies in the 2017 Children’s Agenda serve as an outline for the programs and services kids require. We are asking the Legislature to act and to choose hope and possibility for our kids’ future. We are committed to working with policymakers to choose growth, and the return on investment that comes with it, over contraction. Our future depends on it.

— United for Kids Children’s Agenda Steering Committee

Rents are 10% higher while median family income is 2% lower than in 2008.

More than 30,000 children lack health insurance.

55% of 3 and 4 year olds are not enrolled in preschool.
EHA/SHAP TO HELP END HOMELESSNESS
Permanent rollup of an additional $10 million annual allocation for the Emergency Housing Account and State Homelessness Assistance Program

SUBMITTED BY: Community Action Partnership of Oregon
SUPPORTED BY: CareOregon, Central City Concern, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Habitat for Humanity of Oregon, Impact NW, Latino Network, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Neighborhood Partnerships, Oregon AFSCME Council 75, Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women, Oregon Center for Christian Voices, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Housing Alliance, Oregon Law Center, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Opportunity Network, Oregon Primary Care Partners, a Hunger-Free Oregon, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon, Somali American Council of Oregon (SACOO), YWCA Greater Portland

ALLOW RENT STABILIZATION
Lift the preemption to allow local jurisdictions to consider rent regulation measures. Tenants are extremely vulnerable to a sudden and significant rent increase.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Housing Alliance

INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY
Every child needs a safe, stable place to grow up and call home. The state needs to create more affordable housing opportunities for Oregon families. The Legislature should approve $60 million in General Obligation bonds in 2017.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Housing Alliance

PROMOTE FAMILY STABILITY THROUGH HOMEOWNERSHIP
$20 million for LIFT bonds to build 400 needed new homes. Families and individuals need the stability of a permanently affordable home.

SUBMITTED BY: Habitat for Humanity of Oregon

MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION REFORM
Oregon’s biggest housing subsidy mainly benefits well-off homeowners. Reform it to truly boost homeownership for Oregonians across the state.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Opportunity Network and Oregon Center for Public Policy
SUPPORTED BY: Coalition of Communities of Color, Habitat for Humanity of Oregon, Latino Network, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Neighborhood Partnerships, Oregon Housing Alliance, Tax Fairness Oregon, Urban League of Portland, Washington County Kids

CUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX BREAKS
Oregon can avoid cutting services to children by eliminating ineffective, wasteful or unproven economic development subsidies. More than $830 million in economic development tax credits have been enacted since 2003.

SUBMITTED BY: Tax Fairness Oregon
SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Center for Public Policy

EXPAND THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT
Boost participation in EITC by promoting the tax credit to working parents.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Center for Public Policy

OREGON ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
An additional $5 million/year made available for gas or electric utility account payments. Payment is based on income and energy burden.

SUBMITTED BY: Community Action Partnership of Oregon
ECONOMIC SECURITY

JUST CAUSE EVICTION
Protect families by removing the ability for landlords to evict tenants without cause. Four in ten Oregonians rent their homes and are extremely vulnerable to instability because of an eviction without cause.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Housing Alliance

PROTECT TANF AGAINST BUDGET CUTS
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is the principal safety net to stabilize families, allowing them to train and eventually return to the workforce.

SUBMITTED BY: TANF Alliance

PROTECT WORKERS FROM STOLEN WAGES
Strengthening legal protections and giving workers better tools to recover stolen wages while increasing penalties would help prevent families from being harmed.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Center for Public Policy

FAIR WORK WEEK
Promotes scheduling policies that allow parents to balance work and the responsibilities of a healthy family.

SUBMITTED BY: UFCW Local 555

FAIR PAY
Employers shall pay the same wage for the similar work and offer the same opportunities regardless of sex or gender identity.

SUBMITTED BY: AAUW of OR - American Association of University Women
SUPPORTED BY: Family Forward, Impact NW, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health, Oregon Nurses Association, SEIU Local 503, YWCA Greater Portland

PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE
A self-sustaining insurance program - like Social Security or Unemployment - to fund wage replacement during qualifying absences like welcoming a new child or a serious illness to the employee or family member.

SUBMITTED BY: Family Forward

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**ECONOMIC SECURITY**

**IMPROVE & EXPAND ERDC**
Increase access to Employment Related Day Care, a child care subsidy program that helps families pay for high-quality child care while parents are at work or school.

SUBMITTED BY: Family Forward

**211INFO MODERNIZATION**
Funding for 211info’s statewide information and referral services ensuring 24/7 access for children and families in need.

SUBMITTED BY: 211info

**CHILDREN’S SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**
A low-cost investment in the future for each Oregon child to inspire and enable them to plan and act to lay a path to post-secondary education.

SUBMITTED BY: Neighborhood Partnerships
**TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOL PILOTS**

Continue funding for trauma informed school pilots for two years to allow for comprehensive implementation and evaluation.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Oregon School-Based Health Alliance

**SUPPORTED BY:** CareOregon, Children's Health Alliance, Healthy Kids Learn Better, Impact NW, Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Pediatric Society, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon, Upstream Public Health, Voices Set Free, YWCA Greater Portland

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**FULLY FUND EI/ECSE**

Expand funding to Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education to provide the recommended levels of services to children diagnosed with a developmental delay or disability.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Children’s Institute


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**EXPAND VOLUNTARY HOME VISITING SERVICES**

Provide parents with voluntary coaching to improve health outcomes and school readiness improving the infrastructure and expanding the system.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Children’s Institute


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**HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOL FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN**

Maintain enrollment levels in Preschool Promise classrooms for children up to 200% of the poverty level.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Children’s Institute


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**INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE**

Implement and coordinate effective professional development opportunities for adults working with our youngest children.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Children’s Institute

**SUPPORTED BY:** Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Neighborhood Partnerships, Oregon AFSCME Council 75, Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children, OregonASK, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon, Ready Nation, SEIU Local 503, Washington County Kids, YWCA Greater Portland

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**PAY EQUITY FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS**

Increase funding for Head Start and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten (OPK) programs so qualified educators can have competitive pay with other early learning programs.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Oregon Head Start Association

**SUPPORTED BY:** AAWU of OR - American Association of University Women, Children’s Institute, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

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**CULTURALLY SPECIFIC EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS**

Flexible funding for early learning programs that have demonstrated success for children of color.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Latino Network

**SUPPORTED BY:** APANO - Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, CareOregon, Children’s Institute, Coalition of Communities of Color, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Oregon Latino Health Coalition, Oregon Opportunity Network, Oregon Pediatric Society, Oregon Public Health Institute, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon, Somali American Council of Oregon (SACOO), Upstream Public Health, Urban League of Portland
HELP DIVERSIFY PRESCHOOL TEACHERS
Provide alternative pathways to become a lead Preschool Promise teacher, especially for teachers of color and teachers in rural areas.

SUBMITTED BY: Children’s Institute

TRIBAL ATTENDANCE PILOT PROJECT (TAPP)
Continue to pilot culturally relevant approaches to reduce chronic absenteeism among schools with significant numbers of Native American students.

SUBMITTED BY: Children’s Institute
SUPPORTED BY: AAUW of OR - American Association of University Women, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon, Upstream Public Health, YWCA Greater Portland

ETHNIC STUDIES STANDARDS
Integrating Ethnic Studies standards within existing Social Studies standards. Convene workgroup to guide with implementation.

SUBMITTED BY: APANO - Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

CHILDREN’S SPECIAL DISTRICTS
Allow creation of districts that can fund after-school and summer programs to improve children’s recreational, health, educational, and cultural opportunities.

SUBMITTED BY: Washington County Kids
SUPPORTED BY: Children’s Institute, Impact NW, Oregon Public Health Association, OregonASK, YWCA Greater Portland

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
Expand program so more children can be healthy and safe as they travel to and from school.

SUBMITTED BY: Street Trust

PE FOR ALL KIDS
Create implementation pathway for schools to be in compliance with 2007’s HB 3141 requiring schools deliver a minimum number of hours of PE.

SUBMITTED BY: Upstream Public Health, American Heart Association
SUPPORTED BY: AAUW of OR - American Association of University Women, Healthy Kids Learn Better, Latino Network, Mission: Readiness, Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Pediatric Society, Oregon Public Health Association, Oregon Public Health Institute, Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, OregonASK, Playworks, Somali American Council of Oregon (SACOO)
HEALTH & SAFETY

COVER ALL KIDS
Guarantee ALL children in Oregon have access to health insurance.
SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Latino Health Coalition

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EQUITY
Establishes coverage for the full range of reproductive health services at zero out-of-pocket cost for all persons, regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance.
SUBMITTED BY: Planned Parenthood of Oregon

FUND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
These culturally specific health workers improve health outcomes for underserved communities of color.
SUBMITTED BY: NAYA Family Center

IMPROVE MEDICAID ENROLLMENT FOR FAMILIES
Two-thirds of Oregon Health Plan failed renewals are because OHP cannot contact the recipient.
SUBMITTED BY: CareOregon
SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers

E-CIGARETTES TAX
Tax e-cigarettes and corresponding nicotine solutions at a higher rate to help prevent youth access and addiction.
SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Nurses Association
SUPPORTED BY: American Heart Association, American Lung Association in Oregon, Children’s Health Alliance, Healthy Kids Learn Better, League of Women Voters of Oregon, March of Dimes Greater Oregon Chapter, Oregon AFSCME Council 75, Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, Oregon Latino Health Coalition, Oregon Pediatric Society, Oregon Public Health Institute, Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, SEIU Local 503, Somali American Council of Oregon (SACOO), Tax Fairness Oregon, Upstream Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH MODERNIZATION
Investing in public health to ensure every family and community in Oregon has the same access to basic public health services and protections.
SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials

TOBACCO LICENSURE
Oregon is one of only seven states that does not require merchants have a license to sell tobacco making youth prevention efforts much less effective.
SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials
SUPPORTED BY: American Heart Association, American Lung Association in Oregon, Children’s Health Alliance, Healthy Kids Learn Better, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Oregon AFSCME Council 75, Oregon Latino Health Coalition, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Pediatric Society, Oregon Public Health Association, Oregon Public Health Institute, Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, Upstream Public Health, Urban League of Portland
HEALTH & SAFETY

RAISE THE TOBACCO SALES AGE TO 21
Prevent youth from beginning a dangerous habit and save lives.

SUBMITTED BY: American Heart Association
SUPPORTED BY: American Lung Association in Oregon, Children’s Health Alliance, Healthy Kids Learn Better, March of Dimes Greater Oregon Chapter, Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, Oregon Latino Health Coalition, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Pediatric Society, Oregon Public Health Association, Oregon Public Health Institute, Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, Upstream Public Health, Urban League of Portland

DIESEL CLEAN-UP
Accelerate diesel clean-up with stronger standards and financial assistance to replace polluting diesel engines in trucks, school buses and construction equipment.

SUBMITTED BY: Clean Air Coalition
SUPPORTED BY: American Lung Association in Oregon, Coalition of Communities of Color, Impact NW, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Neighbors for Clean Air, Oregon AFSCME Council 75, Oregon Center for Christian Voices, Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Nurses Association, Upstream Public Health

SAFE WELL WATER
Increase well testing and outreach to protect infants from potentially fatal nitrate pollution and children from polluted water.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Environmental Council
SUPPORTED BY: Impact NW, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Oregon Center for Christian Voices, Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Public Health Association

INVEST IN OREGON’S RESPONSE TO CHILD ABUSE
Continued support in the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) fund will allow much more timely and effective response to child abuse.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers
SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Pediatric Society, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

ACCESS TO CHILD ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES
By adequately reimbursing child abuse assessment services, CCOs will encourage effective interventions to child abuse.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers
SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Pediatric Society, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon, Somali American Council of Oregon (SACOO)

FAMILY PRESERVATION PROJECT
Continue family-focused rehabilitation program for incarcerated women to prepare them and their families for life after incarceration.

SUBMITTED BY: YWCA of Greater Portland
SUPPORTED BY: AAUW of OR - American Association of University Women, CareOregon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Family Forward, Impact NW, Latino Network, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women, Oregon Center for Christian Voices, Oregon Law Center, Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon, Voices Set Free

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS
Ensure that criminal justice policy and practice take into account the needs of children, from the time a parent is arrested to the time the family is reunited.

SUBMITTED BY: YWCA of Greater Portland
SUPPORTED BY: Family Forward, Impact NW, Latino Network, Voices Set Free

ODSVS FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC SEXUAL ABUSE
Without these shelter services, victims and their children are forced to choose between danger on the streets, and danger in an abusive home. Current funding levels are insufficient to meet the need.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Law Center

CLOSE GUN SAFETY LOOPHOLES
Prevent gun sales when background checks have not been completed a.k.a. Charleston Loophole and clarify law enforcement authority to prevent all domestic abusers from having a gun.

SUBMITTED BY: Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, Oregon Chapter
HEALTH & SAFETY

SCHOOL NURSE SHORTAGE
Expanding Medicaid billing structures in schools would enable school nurses to bill for the services they provide, generating revenue to support needed school nurses.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Nurses Association
SUPPORTED BY: CareOregon, Healthy Kids Learn Better, Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, Oregon Environmental Council, Upstream Public Health, YWCA Greater Portland

EXTREME RISK PROTECTIVE ORDERS
Allows families and law enforcement to obtain a court order to temporarily suspend access to a gun while people are experiencing a crisis that makes them a danger to themselves or others.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety
SUPPORTED BY: AAUW of OR - American Association of University Women, Oregon Center for Christian Voices, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Pediatric Society, Voices Set Free, YWCA Greater Portland

FARM TO SCHOOL AND SCHOOL GARDENS
Maintain or expand programs in Oregon schools to teach kids to grow, eat and love healthy local foods.

SUBMITTED BY: Upstream Public Health
SUPPORTED BY: American Heart Association, Latino Network, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Oregon Center for Christian Voices, Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, OregonASK, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH MODEL
Seek a school-based health carve out in the next Medicaid waiver for a federal match of community funds.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon School-Based Health Alliance
SUPPORTED BY: CareOregon, Healthy Kids Learn Better, Oregon Coalition for Christian Voices, Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health, Oregon Nurses Association, Playworks, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon, Somali American Council of Oregon (SACDO), Upstream Public Health, YWCA Greater Portland

PROTECT CHILDREN IN PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS
Support government accountability by incentivizing properly constructed and maintained playgrounds, swimming pools, and other public property used for recreational purposes.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA)
SUPPORTED BY: OregonASK, Washington County Kids

SIBLING BILL OF RIGHTS FOR FOSTER YOUTH
To support and strengthen the critical bond between siblings separated from each other while in foster care.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Foster Youth Connection (OFYC)
SUPPORTED BY: CareOregon, Latino Network, YWCA Greater Portland

VITAMIN K FOR NEWBORNS
The most effective way to deliver Vitamin K to a newborn is via injection, it’s time to ensure that.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Pediatric Society
SUPPORTED BY: Children’s Health Alliance, Oregon Nurses Association

REAR-FACING CAR SEATS
Prevent the leading cause of death among children by requiring small children to face the rear in cars.

SUBMITTED BY: Oregon Pediatric Society
SUPPORTED BY: Children’s Health Alliance

EXPAND WIC
Increase access to fruits and vegetables for families with young children.

SUBMITTED BY: Partners for Hunger-Free Oregon

END PROFILING
Enact policies that will improve accountability in existing profile law by improving training, data collection, and community oversight.

SUBMITTED BY: Unite Oregon
CHILDREN’S AGENDA PARTNERS

211 Info
All Born (In)
American Association of University Women
American Heart Association
American Lung Association in Oregon
American Society for the Positive Care of Children
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
Basic Rights Oregon
CareOregon
CASA of Marion County
Catholic Community Services
Causa
Central City Concern
Children’s Health Alliance
Children’s Institute
Children’s Trust Fund of Oregon
Children First for Oregon
Coalition of Communities of Color
College Possible
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Family Forward Oregon
Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, Oregon
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Healthy Kids Learn Better
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization
Impact Northwest
Institute for Youth Success
Juliette’s House
Latino Network
League of Women Voters of Oregon
March of Dimes Greater Oregon
Mission: Readiness
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, Oregon Chapter
Native American Youth and Family Center
Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation
Neighborhood House
Neighborhood Partnerships
Neighbors for Clean Air
New Avenues for Youth
Northwest Down Syndrome Association
Northwest Mothers Milk Bank
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Afterschool for Kids
Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety
Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women
Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children
Oregon CASA Network
Oregon Center for Christian Voices
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Oregon Dental Association
Oregon Education Association
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Foster Youth Connection
Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health
Oregon Head Start Association
Oregon Health Equity Alliance
Oregon Housing Alliance
Oregon Hunger Task Force
Oregon Latino Health Coalition
Oregon Law Center
Oregon Montessori Association
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers
Oregon Nurses Association
Oregon Opportunity Network
Oregon Oral Health Coalition
Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition
Oregon Pediatric Society
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon Public Health Association
Oregon Public Health Institute
Oregon Safe Routes to School Network
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance
Oregon School Nurses Association
Oregon Student Association
Oregon Trial Lawyers Association
Oregon Women’s Rights Coalition
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Partnership for Safety and Justice
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon
Playworks
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Raise the Wage Oregon
ReadyNation
Sable House
SEIU Local 503, OPEU
Somali American Council Of Oregon
Street Trust
Summer Learning Partnership
Tax Fairness Oregon
Tobacco 21
UFCW Local 555
Unite Oregon
Upstream Public Health
Urban League of Portland
Voices Set Free
Washington County Kids
Youth, Rights & Justice
YWCA of Greater Portland

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