

From: [Stacey Triplett](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: For item 373 on May 13 PM meeting
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:21:36 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Cannabis testimony05.13.pdf](#)

Thanks for collecting this testimony in support of item 373 on the May 13, 2020 PM meeting agenda.

Regards,
Stacey Triplett

(she/her/hers)

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Our Mission:

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

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NW Oregon Labor Council

May 13, 2020

Commissioner Eudaly

City of Portland, City Council

via email: cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov

189971

Re: Item 373 – 2020 Cannabis Social Equity Grant Program

Dear Commissioner Eudaly:

Please receive this testimony in support of item 373 funding targeted housing support for justice-involved Portlanders as proposed by Worksystems, Human Solutions, Central City Concern, SE Works, IRCO and Constructing Hope. This grant represents an important community reinvestment that addresses restoration of harms done to the African American and Native communities in particular.

As you are aware, our jointly-invested Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) has been highly successful over the years in providing effective support to low-income Portlanders as they improve their employment outcomes through stabilization and occupational training and work experience. It now operates fully remotely following COVID-19 social distancing guidelines with community-based partners pursuing a variety of virtual outreach and customer engagement practices. Additional EOP partners including Black Parent Initiative, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC) and Flip the Script program at Central City Concern are all active in this network of community service providers.

Worksystems' community partners are very prepared to implement this new housing support and have been highly effective in creating housing stability after rent assistance has ended for current participants. We have demonstrated outstanding results by aligning employment and housing services. 93% of people served through our network of community-based providers remain housed 12 months after Short Term Rent Assistance (STRA) ends – the highest housing retention of any STRA program funded by A Home for Everyone – because they are able to retain housing through income from their new careers. However, the scale of need in the "prison to homeless pipeline" is far greater than the resources currently available to our network of CBO partners. These resources from the Cannabis Social Equity Grant of the city of Portland will be of tremendous benefit to our partners and the populations they serve.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions.
striplett@worksystems.org

With great appreciation,

\s\ Stacey Triplett

Stacey Triplett, Community Programs Manager
via email

cc: Patrick Gihring, Chief Program Officer
Blair Schaeffer-Bisht, Senior Project Manager

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