



# Oregon Commission on Children & Families

## Small Investment, Big Return

### We get results for children.

- Healthy Start children are half as likely to become victims of child abuse.
- We target youth at high risk of committing juvenile crime and help prevent 60 percent of them from offending during the next year.
- In 2007, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) served 4,238 kids utilizing 189,000 volunteer case hours valued at \$9,450,000. Children with CASAs are 50 percent less likely to re-enter the child welfare system.
- Relief Nurseries reduce entry into foster care, keeping or reconnecting 88 percent of at-risk families with their children.
- We have helped enroll thousands of children in the Oregon Health Plan or the federally funded State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for kids.

### We save Oregonians money in the short term and the long term.

- We help prevent the need for expensive services...
  - saving \$23,000 a year for each child who doesn't need foster care.
  - saving \$104,000 a year for each child who doesn't need residential mental health treatment.
- We help prevent juvenile crime saving \$68,000 for each year that a youth doesn't enter Oregon Youth Authority custody.
- We help prevent poor educational performance...
  - saving \$6,500 a year for each child who doesn't need to repeat a grade in school.
  - saving \$13,000 a year for each child who doesn't develop special educational needs.
- We help prevent the abuse and neglect of children which costs taxpayers and crime victims over \$800 million a year (Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect in Oregon, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Oregon, 2004).
- We help prevent youth from developing alcohol and drug addictions, which, for all ages, cost Oregon more than \$5.93 billion in 2006. (The Economic Costs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Oregon in 2006, ECONorthwest).
- We target eighth-graders in Oregon, who are twice as likely to have used alcohol in the past 30 days than their peers across the country.

## We bring in resources far beyond taxpayer support.

- In the past biennium, the Commission system brought an additional \$40 million to local communities across Oregon. This is a 2-to-1 return on the dollars invested in the local and state commission infrastructure.
- In fiscal year 2008, we enlisted 338,000 volunteer hours valued at \$5.3 million. That's the equivalent of 163 full-time employees working for one year.
- CASA programs leverage \$4.50 of other revenue for every \$1 of state general fund invested.

## We tap into the strengths of local communities.

- More than 400 highly respected business and civic leaders are serving as champions for children across Oregon's 36 counties.
- Our success results from community-based decision making that empowers citizens to solve local problems with a small investment from the state.
- Local Commissions are rooted in communities and have flexible community resources to quickly respond to the needs of children in both urban and rural areas of the state.
- For the \$18 million that the state invests in local Commissions, taxpayers get an extraordinary return through extensive volunteer efforts which maximize the impact of limited state dollars.

## We protect Oregon's future tax base.

- Our investments develop children who will learn better, earn better, live better and give better.
- We're a sure-fire economic development strategy: Healthy, educated kids grow up to be good employees, valued community members and contributing taxpayers.

### Contact:

Mickey Lansing • 503-378-5128 • [mickey.lansing@state.or.us](mailto:mickey.lansing@state.or.us)  
Andrew J. Smith • 971-322-8512 • [andrew.j.smith@state.or.us](mailto:andrew.j.smith@state.or.us)

Oregon Commission on Children & Families • 530 Center Street NE, Suite 405 • Salem, OR 97301  
FAX: 503-378-8395 • Web: [www.oregon.gov/occf](http://www.oregon.gov/occf)