Dear FACT Oregon families, friends, and community partners,

Are you ready to advocate?

As we wrote last week, Oregon’s government has the tough job of trying to solve the budget crisis facing our state. With this in mind, the legislators who write the Oregon budget are hosting a series of town halls around the state to give YOU a chance to share your views about how the state should spend its money starting July 1.

Whether you are a parent, caregiver, or professional, we all have a story to tell:

- Is your child or a child you work with thriving in an early intervention or early childhood special education program?
- Do your family’s K Plan services give you much needed respite care?
- Does a Medicaid waiver help you get job coaching, long-term care services, or supports in the community?

Whatever your story is, it’s important to share.

Oregon legislators are facing touch budget decisions, and they need to hear from you!

Some helpful tips:

- If you are new to advocacy or haven’t told your story before, check out our online module, Telling Your Story: Introduction to Advocacy.
- If you plan to go the town hall in your area and wish to give testimony, plan to arrive early. Sign-up sheets fill up fast, and these events get crowded! You will likely only get 3-5 minutes to share your story, so prepare ahead of time and be concise.
- Even if you don’t plan to give testimony, it’s still worth attending so you can hear what the legislators and others are saying.
- If you can’t attend a town hall meeting but want to provide input on the budget, you can write an email to the appropriate members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittees listed at the bottom of this alert to share your story.

Town hall meetings schedule:

Friday, February 10: Salem, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Salem

Saturday, February 11: Portland, 12:00 - 2:00 pm
PCC, Sylvania campus
Main Mall, Amo DeBernardis CC Building
12000 SW 49th Ave., Portland

Friday, February 17: Hermiston, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Hermiston High School
Main Commons
600 S 1st St., Hermiston

Saturday, February 18: Madras, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Madras High School
Performing Arts Center
390 SE 10th St., Madras

Friday, February 24: Ashland, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Southern Oregon University
Rogue River Room
1250 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland

Saturday, February 25: Eugene, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Lane Community College
Rooms 308-309 Building 17 (The Forum)
4000 E 30th Ave., Eugene

Friday, March 3: Tillamook, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Port of Tillamook Bay
Officer’s Mess
6825 Officers Row, Tillamook

As always, be prepared, get involved, be heard!

To share your story by email, send it to the appropriate subcommittee for the services for which you are advocating:

**Joint Committee On Ways and Means**

**SubCommittee On Education:**

Co-Chair **Sen Rod Monroe**
Member **Sen Arnie Roblan**
Member **Sen Chuck Thomsen**
Member **Rep Diego Hernandez**
Member **Rep John Lively**
Member **Rep Julie Parrish**
Member **Rep Gene Whisnant**

**Education Sub Staff Email**

**SubCommittee On Human Services:**

Co-Chair **Sen Elizabeth Steiner Hayward**
Co-Chair **Rep Dan Rayfield**
Member **Sen Sara Gelser**
Member **Sen Jackie Winters**
Member **Rep Teresa Alonso Leon**
Member **Rep Knute Buehler**
Member **Rep Cedric Hayden**
Member **Rep Sheri Malstrom**

**Human Services Sub Staff Email**
#EquippingFamilies

For more information about the Family Advocacy Network, call Ava Bartley at (503) 786-6082 or 1 (888) 988-3228, or email ava@factoregon.org.

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