

Southern Oregon FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:

“We are deeply grateful to Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Ron Wyden for their advocacy and leadership in securing funding for this new 24-bed residential treatment facility in Southern Oregon. Their commitment to expanding access to substance use disorder and mental health treatment will have a lasting impact on individuals and families across our region,” **said Eric Guyer, CEO, Addictions Recovery Center.**

“I would like to thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their efforts to bring American made, zero-emission vehicles to RVTD’s fleet,” **said Julie Brown, RVTD General Manager.** “Each year, our Valley Lift paratransit service connects roughly 50,000 older adults and people with disabilities to essential destinations across southern Oregon. Federal funding will help us complete one of the first zero-emission paratransit projects in America by replacing our oldest gasoline vehicles. New battery-electric paratransit vans will boost service reliability and reduce emissions by an estimated 481 Metric Tons of CO2 over the next five years.”

“We are so proud that Senators Merkley and Wyden see the benefit of our investment in rural Oregon and downtown Roseburg. These funds will be used to create apartment, single room occupancy and dorm style housing in a treasured building that would otherwise stand empty. More housing supports workers and students in our community, and a vibrant and economically successful downtown supports the goals of the county as a whole. Students will live, work and learn right here and be part of a strong workforce pipeline,” **said UCC President Rachel Pokrandt.**

“We appreciate Senators Merkley and Wyden for championing this project and recognizing the real childcare needs facing families in our community. This funding allows us to expand the Discovery Preschool at the Santos Center, creating a safer, more secure learning environment and increasing capacity for our youngest children,” **said Michael Zarosinski, Mayor of Medford.**

“The Community Improvement Project grant awarded to our Grants Pass location will expand access to early and creative learning opportunities that strengthen community well-being and spark local innovation. We are grateful to Senators Wyden and Merkley for recognizing that investing in rural communities like Josephine County is an investment in Oregon’s long-term health and economic vitality,” **said Sunny Spicer, Executive Director Oregon Center for Creative Learning.**

“This investment helps ensure our families, elders, and workforce have a safe place to call home. Housing stability is the backbone of strong communities, and we are grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for prioritizing Tribal housing needs in the FY26 appropriations package” **said Brad Kneaper, Tribal Council Chair of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.**

“Safe, affordable housing is foundational to health, stability, and opportunity. This FY26 appropriation allows our Tribe to move forward with housing that meets real community needs, and we are thankful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for recognizing the urgency of housing investments in Tribal and rural communities” **said Lee Ann Wander, CEO of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.**

“The passage of the FY26 appropriations bill affirms the value of partnership and persistence. With the support of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden, our Tribe can move forward with a facility that will serve generations to come” **said Debbie Bossley, Tribal Councilmember of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.**