

Statewide FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:

“Young people across the country are reaching out for help and support on the YouthLine – and thanks to Senators Merkley and Wyden, volunteers at the YouthLine are there to answer the call. This federal support is helping us build national capacity to support mental wellness, based right here in Oregon – with more YouthLine volunteers answering calls, texts and chats, broader community engagement, and youth development that is helping us build a behavioral health workforce for tomorrow,” **said Dwight Holton, CEO of Lines for Life.**

“Built Oregon is humbled and excited with this news. This funding will allow us to build upon our successful farmer’s market program, which creates opportunities for BIPOC led companies to get access to new market opportunities, and extend it to rural based companies as well. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand that farmer’s markets provide a critical role in supporting small businesses throughout Oregon and providing a stepping stone for growth, and we are thankful for their support that allows us to provide this opportunity and mentorship to a greater number of Oregon based companies,” **said Mitch Daugherty, Director, Built Oregon.**

“As REAP celebrates its 25th anniversary, we are thrilled by this news. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden recognize the importance of investing in youth leadership to ensure a strong economic future for Oregon. This funding will allow REAP to continue developing emerging leaders and entrepreneurs as drivers of community strength and long-term prosperity,” **said Mark Jackson, Executive Director, REAP Inc.**

“More than 3 million children across the country go to school every day without the glasses they need,” **said Vision To Learn Founder Austin Beutner.** “Every child in every school, everywhere in the country, should have the glasses they need to succeed in school and in life. Senators Merkley and Wyden’s support is helping ensure many more children in Oregon get the vision care they need.”

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand the challenges families with modest incomes face to reach the dream of homeownership. Thanks to the tireless leadership from Oregon’s senators, Network for Oregon Affordable Housing will now have resources to help Oregon families achieve that dream,” **said Bill Van Vliet, NOAH Executive Director.**