

Community Action Council

of Lewis, Mason & Thurston Counties

Subject: 2024 - Elevating our 50-Year Legacy!

Dear friends, supporters, and esteemed community members,

As we step into the promise of a new year, it's not just a moment for reflection but a beacon of hope guiding us toward the successes that await. At the Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties, we are excited to embark on the journey of 2024 and have a number of exciting updates, each designed to deepen our commitment and build upon our 50-year legacy of providing impactful programming in Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties. Here's a closer look at the exciting updates that mark the beginning of 2024!

- 1. **CEO Recruitment with Archbright:** The Council is working with Archbright to facilitate the recruitment process for our next CEO, with the goal of hiring in Spring of this year. With Archbright at the helm, we are poised to have a robust and successful CEO recruitment process, ensuring our organization is ready to continue to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities we serve.
- 2. **Mission Statement Evolution:** The Council's Board of Directors unanimously approved an updated mission statement for 2024. This evolution, rooted in over 50-years of experience and unwavering commitment, recognizes our potential to be meaningful contributors in creating thriving communities. The process was a labor of love, engaging stakeholders from across the organization in deep, intentional work focusing on the essence of community action and centering those we are dedicated to serving. We're thrilled to share our updated mission statement: *At Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties, we are dedicated to people's right to thrive and define their own potential. We disrupt white supremacy culture and advocate for all members of our community to flourish.*
- 3. **Monarch Expansion Project:** The Monarch Expansion project is making swift progress and is set to open its doors to the community in early 2024. This expansion is a significant milestone in our journey, enabling us to provide life-saving services to even more children and their families.
- 4. **Board of Directors:** Our Board of Directors, deeply rooted in our community, brings a wealth of knowledge in non-profit operations. Over the past few months, our governance has been driven by an unwavering commitment to equity principles, providing a clear focus for 2024. Vice Chair Kathleen Clark shares her enthusiasm, stating, "I am delighted to be a board member for CACLMT. We respect and honor people's lived experiences, ensuring racially just ways of service." In 2024, our Board is excited to welcome new voices and perspectives and are actively seeking new board members to shape our organization's next chapter. If you're passionate about making a difference, we invite you to inquire about available opportunities with us. For details on current openings, please email info@caclmt.org

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5. **Dedicated Program Leadership:** Our programs are led by an exceptional team, each member bringing first-hand knowledge and a resolute commitment to the work we do. Day in and day out, our leaders guide their respective programs with direction and an unwavering focus on equity.

As we say goodbye to 2023 and set our sights on the unfolding journey of 2024, it is with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect on over 50-years of dedication to the communities we serve. Throughout 2023, The Council demonstrated its commitment by serving over 14,000 community members, adding to the legacy of providing essential services. Over the decades, our impact has extended to hundreds of thousands, ensuring access to crucial support such as assistance with utility bills, weatherization services, housing advocacy, and child advocacy care. As we stand on this foundation of service and compassion, we look ahead with optimism and determination. Together, we will continue to make a positive and lasting impact in the lives of those we have the privilege to serve. The journey ahead holds exciting possibilities, and we are grateful for the opportunity to navigate it alongside our dedicated community and supporters. Thank you for your partnership as we strive to build a better future for all. Your continued support and partnership are invaluable to us.

In Community,

Sarah Miramda

Sarah Miranda (Interim CEO)

* Sometimes, people have questions about what white supremacy culture means and we are glad you asked! While crafting our updated mission statement, we delved deep into the core factors that contribute to poverty in all communities, regardless of race. Through this process, we consistently found ourselves revisiting the issue of systemic oppression and the underlying structures that perpetuate and sustain social, political, and historical systems, which in turn contribute to the persistence of poverty. As we continued our discussion, we found the best way to describe the interlocking systems, beliefs, and structures was white supremacy culture.

Our commitment to addressing these issues is fueled by a dedication to dismantling these barriers and fostering an environment where all communities can thrive. Your engagement and questions contribute to this collective journey of awareness and transformation.

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