



## Services for Oregon's Most Vulnerable Citizens are in Crisis!

Turnover of direct care workers exceeds 65% costing at least \$12 million annually in replacement costs.

### Other Critical Issues

- ✓ No increases in 5 years.
- ✓ Savings exhausted, some organizations face bankruptcy.

### Compare!

The state is responsible for assuring the health, safety and rights of people needing Comprehensive Services.

Non-profits now provide this service in communities throughout Oregon. It would cost the State over \$200,000,000 in direct labor costs alone to provide the same supports.

Nearly 3,000 people with Developmental Disabilities (DD) living in Oregon communities must have twenty-four hour support. These supports were formerly provided in state institutions (e.g. Fairview), which have closed.

**“I can’t afford to keep my job!”** Joining the workforce after leaving an abusive husband, Jennifer came to Shangri-La with few work skills and little experience. Six months later she is a skilled and valuable employee. With extensive job coaching and training, Jennifer is now qualified to pass medication, administer insulin injections, administer CPR, clean feeding tubes, carry out behavior plans and other work documentation, transport individuals with disabilities in an accessible van, perform safety inspections and follow thorough safety procedures, prepare meals as prescribed by a dietician, and perform some restorative/physical therapies, all as part of her daily routine. She has been trained in positive behavior techniques, person-centered planning, and received extensive education about the individual desires and needs of the people she supports in a five bed group home. She shows a real talent for working with people and is very popular with the residents. She enjoys her work and the people she supports.

*But she’s looking for another job.* As a single parent of two young children, she makes just enough to not qualify for any public help, but not enough to adequately support her family. In spite of how much she loves her work, she knows she can find better pay in other jobs. Shangri-La stands to lose another good employee and thousands of dollars invested in training.



**Recommendation:** *An increase of approximately \$60 million in State General Funds to increase rates for current DD Comprehensive Services is needed for the 2007-09 biennium.*

*Further, cost of living increases must be included in every biennial budget. Without such adjustments, community nonprofits will continue to be in crisis.*