



April 18, 2022

Hi, folx.

I am going to introduce myself; my name is Julie Reis and I grew up in Indiana and it is still considered home in my heart. However, I have been living here in Salem for almost 17 years now. I have been married for almost three years now and we have four lovely furkids. We love to travel, meet new/old friends, and learn about its native land's heritage and how it evolves over time.

I obtained my Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling in Deafness and worked in this field for almost 4 years before moving on to different jobs. I have several tricks up my sleeve from working in various kinds of job settings and am looking forward to helping and supporting Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing (D/DB/HH) people, and others who face communication barriers to having stable dwellings.

I am so excited to be on the team of Bridges Oregon which was awarded a grant that focuses on housing. Bridges Oregon, Inc. is a nonprofit organization serving Oregonians who are D/DB/HH, or face other communication barriers. One of our goals as stated in our mission is to facilitate equity and inclusiveness and to provide a bridge to opportunities through advocacy, education, and communication. We became the first and only linguistic and culturally responsive nonprofit organization in Oregon to provide services to individuals who are D/DB/HH, or face other communication barriers.

The goal is to improve D/DB/HH people's living conditions to be burden-free by implementing fair housing information and empowering them to advocate for their fair housing rights by having their accommodations met. The service we can provide is to use a sign language interpreter agency, A5 Interpreting, to minimize barriers and increase access to the information, make sure the Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO) web pages are accessible and free from any kind of discrimination, offer financial assistance to provide stable, safe, and permanent housing, and/or reasonable modifications (e.g., visual security system, outdoor motion sensor lights, any type of housing-related alert system, and doorbell).

If you have any questions or want to learn more about this project, please feel free to contact me.

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