

# OREGON HOUSING AND HUNGER SAFETY NET PROVIDERS PERSPECTIVE

## BRIEF HISTORY OF HOW WE GOT HERE

--During the 1970s, median incomes began to stagnate while housing costs increased along with the percentage of single parent families. This resulted in increased rates of homelessness and hunger which persist to this day.

--During the <sup>Early</sup> 1980s, Congress abolished the Federal "War on Poverty" and transferred reduced anti-poverty funding to the states: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) which provides flexible anti-poverty program funding and Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which provides utility bill payment assistance are placed in the Department of Human Services, Community Services Section. *Went*

--In 1985, the Oregon Legislature passes SB 797 which requires the pass through of Federal anti-poverty funds to local Community Action Agencies. This policy results in the creation of a statewide network of local agencies addressing the problem of hunger and homelessness. It was during this period that the Oregon Food Bank was created to support a statewide network of food banks and food pantries.

--In 1987, the Oregon Legislature establishes the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) to address the increasing problem of homelessness across the state.

--In 1991, the Oregon Legislature transfers the Community Services Section of DHS with its Federal and State anti-poverty funding streams to the Oregon Housing Agency. The goal is to combine funding streams to better address the problem of homelessness and hunger at the local level. This policy was very successful in fostering the creation of an extensive network of housing and hunger service agencies at the local level.

*To Create  
HCS*

USING AGENCY AS EXAMPLE

# POLICY IMPACT OF COMBINING COMMUNITY SERVICES (SAFETY NET) WITH HOUSING AGENCY TO CREATE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (HCS)

## 1. MORE FUNDING STREAMS DIRECTED AT HOMELESS AND HUNGER PROBLEM

### FUNDING STREAMS AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES PRIOR TO HCS CREATION (1991)

- COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (flexible anti-poverty funds)
- LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (utility bill payment assistance)
- STATE HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (emergency housing assistance)
- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WEATHERIZATION FUNDS (funding to weatherize low-income Homes)

Housing & Hunger Related Services

### FUNDING STREAMS AVAILABLE AFTER HCS CREATION (1991)

- COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
- LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
- STATE HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WEATHERIZATION FUNDS
- STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND
- LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS
- EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS
- HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE FUNDS
- EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT PROGRAM
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
- OREGON ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUNDS
- DOCUMENT RECORDING FEE FUNDING

THE COMBINED SYSTEM OF FUNDING FOSTERED AN EXPANSION OF OREGON'S LOCALLY BASED COMMUNITY ACTION AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AGENCY NETWORK RESULTING IN A HOUSING/HUNGER SAFETY NET PROVIDING HELP TO OVER 350,000 PERSONS A YEAR

USING  
117 AGENCIES  
AS EXAMPLE

## 2. INCREASED NUMBER OF LOCAL AGENCIES (NONPROFITS) ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

NUMBER OF LOCAL AGENCIES ADDRESSING HOMELESS/HUNGER PROBLEM IN NW OREGON (CLATSOP, COLUMBIA, TILLAMOOK COUNTIES) PRIOR TO HCS CREATION

- COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM
- NORTHWEST OREGON HOUSING AUTHORITY

2  
Housing  
Hunger  
Related  
Problem

NUMBER OF LOCAL AGENCIES ADDRESSING HOMELESS/HUNGER PROBLEM AFTER HCS CREATION (1991)

- COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM
- NORTHWEST OREGON HOUSING AUTHORITY
- CLATSOP COMMUNITY ACTION
- CLATSOP COUNTY FOOD BANK
- COMMUNITY ACTION RESOURCE ENTERPRISES (Tillamook)
- TILLAMOOK COUNTY FOOD BANK
- COLUMBIA PACIFIC FOOD BANK
- TILLAMOOK EMERGENCY SHELTER
- PIONEER SHELTER HOUSE
- ELK CREEK AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX (Cannon Beach)
- BLUE HERON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX (Vernonia)
- FORREST PARK AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX (St. Helens)
- HILLTOP AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX (Astoria)
- NORTHWEST OREGON SELF-HELP HOUSING PROGRAM
- COLUMBIA COUNTY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COMPLEX FOR EX-OFFENDERS

THIS EXAMPLE WAS REPLICATED AROUND THE STATE RESULTING IN AN EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF LOCAL COMMUNITY AGENCIES (NONPROFITS) THAT CURRENTLY RECEIVE FUNDING FROM HCS. THUS THE POLICY WAS EFFECTIVE AT BUILDING LOCAL HOUSING/HUNGER SAFETY NET.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR TRANSITION OF OREGON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **1. MAINTAIN and ENHANCE the statewide, locally based, anti-poverty COMMUNITY AGENCY NETWORK of programs and services:**

Current state policy (ORS 458:505) adopted in 1985, and the creation of Oregon Housing and Community Services Department has resulted in the creation of a viable, effective safety net of housing and food services at the local level. Federal and state funding streams must continue to be passed through to agencies at the local level who are addressing the causes and conditions of poverty. Any re-design of these funding streams should provide a net increase in the proportion of funds going to the local level.

### **2. CONSOLIDATE FUNDING STREAMS TO SIMPLIFY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND REDUCE PAPER WORK WHEREVER POSSIBLE:**

For example, emergency housing assistance funds are channeled to local agencies in four different funding streams: State Homeless Assistance Program, State Emergency Housing Assistance Program, Federal Emergency Shelter Grant Program, Federal HUD Continuum of Care Program. Consolidating these funding streams into one funding stream with uniform reporting would help support and improve service delivery at the local level.

### **3. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE SERVICE INTEGRATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

Any redesign of state administered housing and hunger related programs should foster and improve service integration at the local level. Local Community Action Agencies are currently "one stop" locations for accessing housing and emergency food services. Any restructuring of funding streams should build on this service integration not result in service fragmentation at the local level.

*Review Oregon*

# **COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM**

**SERVING CLATSOP, COLUMBIA, AND TILLAMOOK COUNTIES**

## **ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS**

1. HEAD START
2. HEALTHY START
3. AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE
4. USDA CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM
5. CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL
6. EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE
7. EMERGENCY UTILITY (ENERGY) ASSISTANCE
8. HOME WEATHERIZATION
9. HOUSING REHABILITATION
10. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
11. HOUSING COMPLEX MANAGEMENT
12. SELF-HELP HOUSING
13. FLOOD RECOVERY HOUSING
14. MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE COUNSELING
15. SENIOR NUTRITION SERVICES
16. SENIOR IN-HOME SERVICES
17. VETERANS SERVICES
18. COMMUNITY FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT
19. INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

