



Housing Crisis Impacts Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims

Across Oregon, too many families with children are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness, because there is a severe and growing lack of affordable housing. **This crisis has a particularly serious impact on victims of violence and their children. Without safe housing, victims are at greater risk of abuse or homelessness:**

- 38% of all victims of domestic violence become homeless at some point in their lives. ⁱ
- One study found that 13% of homeless women reported having been raped in the past 12 months, and half of those women had been raped at least twice. ⁱⁱ
- Among cities surveyed in 2005, 50% identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness. ⁱⁱⁱ
- Many domestic and sexual violence shelters are unable to house families longer than 30 days. The average length of time it takes a homeless family to secure housing is 6-10 months. ^{iv}
- Victims of domestic violence often return to their abusers because they cannot find long-term housing for themselves and their children. ^v
- There are not enough housing vouchers available to meet the needs of victims and their children. Some people remain on the waiting list for years, while some lists are closed. ^{vi}
- The majority of battered women in transitional housing programs state that had these programs not existed, they would have had no option but to return to their abusers. ^{vii}

Safe Shelter and Housing Are Keys to Breaking the Cycle

When victims of violence have safety and stability, they can begin to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children. Funding for emergency housing assistance as well as permanent affordable housing resources can save lives, and futures.

Please support:

Permanent, Safe, Affordable New Housing Units:

\$100 million in general obligation and lottery-backed bonds for new, permanent affordable housing units for low-income families with children. Bold action is needed to address long-term housing needs. Support the Governor's request for \$100 million in Bonds, which will be used to build new units and provide increased housing opportunity for very low income families with children, in communities across the state.

Emergency Resources:

\$10 million increase to the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP). EHA is a flexible tool to provide short-term rent assistance, assistance with deposits or application fees, and shelter, and SHAP is used to provide emergency shelter. These programs help prevent and end homelessness. Bill: SB 5513.

Survivors Need Safe and Stable Housing



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

- i Charlene K. Baker, Cook, Sarah L., Norris, Fran H., “Domestic Violence and Housing Problems: A Contextual Analysis of Women's Help-seeking, Received Informal Support, and Formal System Response,” *Violence Against Women* 9, no. 7 (2003): 754-783.
- ii Wenzel, S.L., Leake, B.D., & Gelberg, L. (2001). Risk factors for major violence among homeless women. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 16, 739-752.
- iii U.S. Conference of Mayors/Sodexo Survey on Hunger and Homelessness, 2005.
- iv Correia, A., *Housing and Battered Women: A case study of domestic violence programs in Iowa*. Harrisburg, PA: National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. March, 1999.
- v *Lifting the Voices of Homeless Women*, Roofless Women’s Action Research Mobilization, Women’s Institute for Housing and Economic Development, 1997.
- vi Davies, J. & Hammeal-Urban, R. *Federal Housing and Domestic Violence: Introduction to Programs, Policy, and Advocacy Opportunities*, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. 1999.
- vii Melbin, Anna, Chris Sullivan & Debra Cain. “Transitional Supportive Housing Programs: Battered Women’s Perspectives and Recommendations” *AFFILIA*, Vol. 18 No. 4. 2003.