



HOUSING ALLIANCE

www.OregonHousingAlliance.org

Members

1000 Friends of Oregon
 211info
 AFSCME Local 3135
 Alliance of Family & Housing Success
 Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
 Bradley Angle
 Bienestar
 CASA of Oregon
 Cascade Management Inc.
 Central City Concern
 Chrisman Development Inc.
 City of Portland
 Clackamas County
 Coalition of Communities of Color
 Coalition of Community Health Clinics
 Community Action Partnership of Oregon
 Community Action Team, Inc.
 Community Alliance of Tenants
 Community Housing Fund
 Community Partners for Affordable Housing
 Cornerstone Community Housing
 Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
 Enterprise Community Partners
 Fair Housing Council of Oregon
 Farmworker Housing Development Corporation
 Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
 Hacienda CDC
 Coalition of Housing Advocates
 Housing Development Center
 Human Solutions
 Impact Northwest
 Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
 Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center
 League of Women Voters of Oregon
 Lincoln County
 Metro
 Metropolitan Affordable Housing
 Momentum Alliance
 NAYA Family Center
 Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation
 Neighborhood Partnerships
 NeighborImpact
 NeighborWorks Umpqua
 Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
 Northwest Housing Alternatives
 Northwest Pilot Project
 Open Door Counseling Center
 Oregon Food Bank
 Oregon Housing Authorities
 Oregon Opportunity Network
 Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon
 Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.
 Proud Ground
 Raphael House
 REACH CDC
 St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
 ShelterCare
 Sisters of the Road
 Sponsors, Inc.
 Street Roots
 Transition Projects
 Urban League of Portland
 Washington County
 Welcome Home Coalition
 Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

Building Oregon’s Future: \$100 Million for Housing Opportunity

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
May 8, 2015

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read, and members of the Committee:

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than sixty organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the base on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities. We represent a diverse set of voices from residents to local jurisdictions to non-profit housing developers and organizations working to meet basic needs.

This historic investment is the right step for Oregon, and a step at the right time. We have a history in Oregon of coming together and taking bold steps to create opportunities and build a better future.

There is no doubt that bold action is needed. Across Oregon, our communities are struggling to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing. Homelessness is on the rise, and threatens to undermine our ability to succeed in educating our youth, providing a future for young families, and a safe haven for our elders.

We ask your support for the proposed \$100 million to build Oregon’s future by developing homes for families living on very low incomes, especially those who may be at risk of homelessness. This investment will support local, innovative initiatives that will help us get closer to meeting our growing housing needs across the state.

Thousands of Oregonians are experiencing homelessness, including 20,000 children this past school year. We also know that the economic recovery has not reached all our community members equally—hundreds of thousands of our neighbors can’t



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pay their rent and still have money left for basic needs. Oregon Housing and Community Services stands ready to partner with housing developers, local jurisdictions, and members of our communities to leverage their years of experience and expertise to develop new models for housing development. Leaders from across the state are excited. Many have already offered ideas of how they can use this investment to meet their community needs. For example:

"I imagine that land that has been secured by the Lincoln County land trust could be made available for development of new homes for families. Our Community Development Corporation, Northwest Coastal Housing, has buildable parcels in Toledo and Lincoln City, and is excited about the possibility of leveraging those resources with this state investment. For the safety, economic vitality, environmental health and diversity of our communities, people of all income levels need to be able to live close to where they work, learn and play."

- Bill Hall, Lincoln County Commissioner

"The Housing Authority of Jackson County is excited about the opportunity to creatively serve the housing needs of families with children as well as individuals with very low incomes and special needs. We imagine leveraging the state resource by authorizing a portion of our voucher authority to be project based in funded projects. We anticipate we would be able to offer about 20% project based vouchers in any project funded in our area. We are also excited about the possibility of exploring a housing first approach with these funds."

- Scott Foster, Housing Authority of Jackson County

This is a first step to develop a uniquely Oregon solution to our unprecedented need for homes. Success begins at home. Decisive action is needed to build a successful economy, achieve higher levels of education, and nurture healthier communities. On behalf of the Housing Alliance, I urge your prompt consideration and support of this terrain-shifting investment and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Janet Byrd

On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance