

May 11, 2015

## **AOC SUPPORTS \$100 MILLION FOR LOW INCOME/AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The Association of Oregon Counties strongly supports the request by the Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS) Department for \$100M for Family Affordable Housing (\$15M in Lottery-backed Bonds, \$85M in General Fund-backed Bonds).

There is a housing crisis in every corner of our state and every community in between. The lack of low income, affordable, and/or workforce housing impacts every county in Oregon. This historic investment of \$100M will enable communities to address housing issues and help families in need.

Many of Oregon's county commissioners and judges have been engaged in the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness within their respective communities. Without additional funding to implement these plans, it has been difficult to adequately address homelessness, particularly during the recession. As the local providers of mental health and public health services, county leaders know all too well that housing is fundamental to effective delivery of human services. These new funds will enable county officials to partner with business, non-profit, faith-based, and other local government leaders to create housing opportunities that align services for our citizens.

We applaud OHCS's desire to find innovative solutions to tackle this difficult problem. We stand ready to collaborate with OHCS and our local partners to address housing issues in our counties. By providing stable housing for families, we will strengthen our communities and build a better future for all Oregonians.

We urge your support for this critical and worthy endeavor.

Please contact Mary Stern at [mstern@ocweb.org](mailto:mstern@ocweb.org) for more information about AOC or this issue

