

SB 5513

Housing and Community Services Department

The mission of the Housing and Community Services Department is to provide stable and affordable housing and engage leaders to develop integrated statewide policy that addresses poverty and provides opportunity to Oregonians. The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends a Total Funds budget of \$1,182,054,582 and 130 positions.

The Subcommittee recommends elimination of nine positions and associated expenditure limitation in central administrative services to reflect the agency's efforts to streamline operations and service delivery. Food and commodity programs currently administered by the agency are recommended to be transferred to the Department of Human Services to align with other statewide food and nutrition systems, and allow Housing and Community Services to focus its strategy on housing efforts. It is recommended that funding for the Emergency Housing Assistance and State Homeless Assistance Programs be maintained at the 2013-15 Legislatively Approved Budget level, which is \$2 million higher than the 2015-17 Current Service Level.

\$1.4 million is recommended to continue contracted foreclosure counseling and legal aid services through February 2016, at which time it is recommended that the agency report back to the legislature regarding utilization of the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance program, foreclosure rates and actual monthly expenditures.

General Fund of \$265,338 is recommended to provide administrative support to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (or CASA) program, and \$210,000 in additional

General Fund is recommended to be added to the grants distributed to local CASA programs.

One-time administrative support for the Oregon Volunteers program is recommended in the amount of \$250,000, along with a budget note directing Housing and Community Services and the Board of the Commission on Voluntary Action and Service to report to the 2016 Legislature on efforts to ensure the fiscal sustainability of Oregon Volunteers, and recommendations on alternative agency or not-for-profit hosts for that organization.

\$1.4 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation and 10 limited duration positions are recommended to enable Housing and Community Services to close out the Homeownership Stabilization initiative in 2017, pursuant to federal requirements. Adjustments have been made to reflect updated estimates for debt service needs and federal HUD 811 Project Rental Assistance Program contract payments.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends SB 5513 be amended by the -2 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.