

AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE HOUSING COALITION

"Housing People Who Put Food On Our Tables"

COALITION SUPPORTERS

Statewide Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon
CASA of Oregon
Causa
Community Action Partners of Oregon
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Farmworker Housing Development Corp. (FHDC)
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Housing Alliance
Housing Development Center
LMC Construction Inc.
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (NOAH)
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Piñeros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)
Rural Community Assistance Corp. (RCAC)

Agricultural-related Organizations

A to Z Wineworks
Colombia Gorge Fruit Growers
Orchard View, Inc.
Oregon Association of Nurseries
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Dairy Farmers
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Winegrowers Association

Local Organizations:

Adelante Mujeres
Bienestar
Central City Concern
Centro Cultural
Colombia Cascade Housing Corp.
Community Housing Fund
Housing Authority of Yamhill County
Housing Works
Klamath Housing Authority
Morrow County Health Department
Proud Ground
Rose CDC
Umatilla County Housing Authority
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services (WNHS)



CASA of Oregon & Oregon Opportunity Network are the conveners of this coalition.

In that the farmworkers in this state benefit the social and economic welfare of all of the people in Oregon by their unceasing efforts to bring a bountiful crop to market, the Legislative Assembly declares that it is the policy of this state to ensure adequate accommodations commensurate with the housing needs of Oregon's farmworkers that meet decent health, safety and welfare standards (ORS 456.550)

Senate Bill 1 - Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit (AWHOTC)

What it is: The AWHOTC is a state income tax credit that is modeled on the efficient and effective (and fully subscribed) Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit (AWHTC). The credit is designed to preserve and create new housing options for agricultural workers.

How it will work: Eligible owners will request an allocation of credits based on their eligible operating expenses. While SB 1 describes the program in general detail, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) will be charged with administering the program including allocation of the credits, caps on costs (per unit/per occupant/per project/per owner).

Who will benefit: Agricultural workers will benefit by having safe, decent and affordable housing. Employers will benefit by having a stably housed workforce. The average farmworker income is about \$12,000-20,000 (depending on whether migrant, season or year round worker). Using the statewide Area Median Income (AMI) of \$54,148, this means that households earning 22-37% of AMI will benefit from this credit.

Why it is important: There are more than 200,000 agricultural workers and family members living in Oregon. 10,572 of these live in registered farm labor camps. Nearly 1,408 units of affordable housing that is either restricted to or has a preference for agricultural workers provides another 6,336 agricultural worker family members with safe, decent and affordable housing. That means that the on-farm and community-based housing provide approximately 9% of the families with decent housing. Many of the remaining 91% live in crowded, substandard housing.

The AWHOTC will incent existing owners to preserve and improve their housing. For those providing housing to agricultural workers but not currently registered with OR OSHA, it will incent them to bring their housing in line with the minimum housing standards as required by OR OSHA. It can also provide an incentive for growers to provide new housing for their workers.

For community-based organizations, this will open up new opportunities to leverage existing and new sources of capital to create additional units of housing.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY