



March 17, 2017

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**  
**Policy Position**  
**Relating to funding for Oregon Housing and Community Services**

The Board of County Commissioners supports continued funding for Oregon's Housing and Community Services (OHCS) programs. These funds provide Clackamas County's Health, Housing & Human Services department with the resources required to remove barriers to stable housing. OHCS funding supports essential services in Clackamas County through the following programs:

***Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA)*** supports Clackamas County by providing a match to federal homeless grants, supporting 55 households each year.

***State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP)*** funds pay for over 2,000 overnight stays for homeless families and women fleeing domestic violence. Clackamas County partners with Annie Ross House and Clackamas Women's Services to ensure these funds are available for the most vulnerable populations.

***Energy Assistance*** funding annually helps over 5,000 low income residents pay their energy bills in Clackamas County through a combination of State and federal funds. These programs ensure families not only have shelter, but are able to maximize the efficiency of their utilities, thus reducing cost barriers to housing for low income residents.

***Oregon Energy Assistance Programs (OEAP)*** funding is also vital to Clackamas County to continue energy assistance needs, but the funding is currently anticipated to be reduced because it was created with a sunset timed for 2017. HB 2134 is one approach that would end the sunset on OEAP funds and allow vital services to continue in Clackamas County and around the State. With the additional OEAP funding that is at risk, Clackamas County is able to support 650 low income households annually to ensure they have the ability to heat their homes in the winter and keep them cool in the summer.

***Weatherization Assistance Program*** funding provides one-on-one, in-home visits to install cost-effective energy efficiency measures and provides education workshops about energy conservation. Clackamas County is able to serve hundreds of households through this program.

**We urge your support to ensure these essential housing and community service programs remain available to Oregonians and Clackamas County.**

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.