



# HOUSING ALLIANCE

April 3, 2017

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair Rayfield, and members of the Subcommittee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our strong support of the General Assistance program within the Department of Human Services budget bill, SB 5526. The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than 80 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 in every corner of our state.

Oregonians should have a level of financial security that allows them to afford a place to call home and meet their basic needs. Our state should work to develop policies and programs that enable residents to achieve this fundamental stability and overcome barriers to housing. This is particularly true for the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness.

Oregon's General Assistance program serves these needs by helping applicants for Social Security benefits bridge the gap between the time of their application and receipt of benefits. In 2016, the Legislature funded the General Assistance program, helping to stabilize Oregonians with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness. As our state faces an affordable housing crisis, General Assistance is more important than ever, and we must continue our commitment to this program.

We strongly encourage you to include funding for General Assistance program in the DHS budget. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Lee', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Lee

On behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

## *Housing Alliance Members*

*1000 Friends  
211info  
A Community Together (Lane County)  
Aging in the Gorge  
Benton County Health Department  
Benton Habitat for Humanity  
Bienestar  
Bradley Angle  
CASA of Oregon  
Central City Concern  
Church Women United of Lane County  
City of Beaverton  
City of Eugene  
City of Hillsboro  
City of Portland  
City of Tigard  
Clackamas County  
Coalition of Community Health Clinics  
Coalition of Housing Advocates  
Common Ground OR-WA  
Community Action Partnership of Oregon  
Community Alliance of Tenants  
Community Energy Project  
Community Housing Fund  
Community Partners for Affordable Housing  
Community Vision  
Cornerstone Community Housing  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Evolve Property Management  
Fair Housing Council of Oregon  
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.  
FOOD for Lane County  
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County  
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon  
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East  
Hacienda CDC  
Housing Authority of Clackamas County  
Housing Development Center  
Human Solutions  
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization  
Impact Northwest*

*JOIN  
Lane County Health and Human Services  
League of Women Voters of Oregon  
Lincoln County  
Mainstream Housing, Inc.  
Metro  
Momentum Alliance  
NAYA Family Center  
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.  
Neighborhood Partnerships  
NeighborImpact  
NeighborWorks Umpqua  
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing  
Nightingale Public Advocacy Project  
Northwest Housing Alternatives  
Northwest Pilot Project  
Oregon AFSCME Council 75  
Oregon Center for Public Policy  
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness  
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Oregon Food Bank  
Oregon Housing Authorities  
Oregon Opportunity Network  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives  
Portland Homeless Family Solutions  
Portland Tenants United  
Proud Ground  
Raphael House  
REACH CDC  
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.  
ShelterCare  
Sisters Habitat for Humanity  
Sponsors, Inc.  
SquareOne Villages  
Street Roots  
Transition Projects  
Urban League of Portland  
Washington County  
Welcome Home Coalition  
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services*