

SB 821 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Meeting Dates: 4/27, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Housing Stability Council to consult Community Action Partnership of Oregon in developing policy for awarding grants to organizations from the Emergency Housing Account, including aligning with federal homelessness prevention strategies.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Overview of the Emergency Housing Account (EHA)
- Flexibility of the EHA to address homelessness
- Use of EHA to help with rental deposits, moving costs and case management

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law creates the Emergency Housing Account administered by the Oregon Housing Stability Council (OHSC) to fund programs that assist the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. Funds are used to pay for programs related to outreach, shelter, transitional housing and rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, data collection, in-home services and community-based services and capacity. The use of the Emergency Housing Account also qualifies the state to receive certain federal matching funds for antipoverty programs, and certain federal criteria need to be met to qualify for matching funds. The Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO) is the nonprofit association for federally authorized social service agencies in Oregon that currently works with the state to deliver federal antipoverty programs and advise state agencies.

Senate Bill 821 directs OHSC to develop policy in consultation with CAPO for awarding grants to organizations through the Emergency Housing Account, including developing policies that align with federal homelessness prevention strategies and resources.