



# HOUSING ALLIANCE

March 14, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Committee on Public Safety  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Winters, Co-Chair Piluso, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our strong support for a \$10 million dollar increase in funding for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund in the Department of Justice Budget. ODSVS funds provide critical support for the statewide network of non-profit domestic violence shelters working every day to meet the needs of survivors seeking safety.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a coalition of ninety organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the foundation 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 including non-profit housing developers, residents of affordable housing, local jurisdictions, and organizations working to meet basic needs in every corner of our state.

We believe that all Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

We simply don't have enough affordable and available homes for people who need them in communities across Oregon. People are struggling with homelessness, housing instability, rent burdens, and to make ends meet and put food on the table. Members of our community are all too often forced to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table. During the last school year, over 21,750 of our school children in grades K – 12 experienced homelessness at some point during the year.

Domestic and sexual violence victims and their children face increased barriers to housing safety and stability. Programs funded by ODSVS are critical to ensuring that survivors have access to emergency shelter and transitional assistance into safe and stable homes.

In 2017 in Oregon, the Department of Human Services reports that there were more than 8,000 requests for shelter by adult domestic or sexual violence survivors that couldn't be met. We know that nationally, approximately 75% of adult victims of domestic violence have minor children with them at the time of the abuse, substantially increasing the impact of this shortfall.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/materials/files/2016-08/MeetingSurvivorsNeeds-ResearchInBrief.pdf>

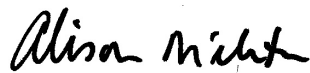
Oregon has some of the nation's highest rates of homelessness, and some of the highest rates of sexual violence. Nationally, domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness for women and children. The 2017 Point-in-Time Homeless Count found that in Oregon, over one-third (33.7%) of respondents reported that they were victims of domestic violence. Of these individuals, nearly half (46.6%) were unsheltered while only 14.2% had been provided with transitional housing services. The National Network to End Domestic Violence 2017 census report found that in Oregon, 72% of survivors' unmet need was for shelter and housing.<sup>2</sup>

Receiving safety services from a shelter and working with shelter advocates has a positive impact on victims' quality of life and level of social support three years later.<sup>3</sup> After receiving services, Oregon women moved 80% less frequently, stayed 78% less often in emergency housing, and had a 52% increase in housing stability.<sup>4</sup> At 18 months, 82% were living in safe, stable housing.<sup>5</sup>

We urge you to support this increase in ODSVS funds so that across the state, victims of domestic and sexual violence can have access to the support and shelter services they need in order to establish safe and stable homes for themselves and their children. Safe and stable homes are key to accessing opportunity.

Thank you very much for your time, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,



Alison McIntosh  
On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

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<sup>2</sup> <https://nnev.org/mdocs-posts/2017-oregon/>

<sup>3</sup> Deborah Bybee & Cris Sullivan, *Predicting Re-Victimization of Battered Women 3 Years After Exiting a Shelter Program*, 36 Am. J. Cmty Psychol. 92 (2005).

<sup>4</sup> Chiquita Rollins, et al., *The SHARE Study* (2010), [http://www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/LSA/SC\\_MaterialsDist/2013/SDBAL030.PDF](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/LSA/SC_MaterialsDist/2013/SDBAL030.PDF).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

## **Housing Alliance Members**

1000 Friends of Oregon  
211info  
Aging in the Gorge  
Benton Habitat for Humanity  
Bienestar  
Bradley Angle  
BRIDGE Housing  
CASA of Oregon  
Central City Concern  
Chrisman Development  
Church Women United of Lane County  
City of Beaverton  
City of Creswell  
City of Eugene  
City of Forest Grove  
City of Hillsboro  
City of Hood River  
City of Portland  
City of Tigard  
Coalition of Community Health Clinics  
Coalition of Housing Advocates  
Common Ground OR-WA  
Community Action Partnership of Oregon  
Community Action Team  
Community Alliance of Tenants  
Community Housing Fund  
Community Partners for Affordable Housing  
Community Vision  
Cornerstone Community Housing  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Enhabit  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Fair Housing Council of Oregon  
FOOD for Lane County  
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon  
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East  
Hacienda CDC  
Housing Authority of Clackamas County  
Housing Development Center  
Housing Oregon  
Human Solutions  
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization  
Impact Northwest  
Innovative Housing, Inc.  
Interfaith Alliance on Poverty  
JOIN  
Lane County Health and Human Services  
League of Women Voters of Oregon  
Lincoln County  
Looking Glass Community Services  
Mainstream Housing, Inc  
Metro  
Mid Columbia Housing Authority  
Native American Youth and Family Center  
(NAYA)  
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.  
(NEDCO)  
Neighborhood Partnerships  
NeighborImpact  
NeighborWorks Umpqua  
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing  
Northwest Housing Alternatives  
Northwest Pilot Project  
Oregon AFSCME Council 75  
Oregon Center for Christian Voices  
Oregon Center for Public Policy  
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness  
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Oregon Food Bank  
Oregon Housing Authorities  
Oregon Law Center  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives  
Portland Homeless Family Solutions  
Portland Housing Center  
Proud Ground  
Raphael House  
REACH CDC  
Rogue Action Center  
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.  
ShelterCare  
Sisters Habitat for Humanity  
Sponsors, Inc.  
SquareOne Villages  
Street Roots  
Transition Projects  
Turning Point  
Washington County  
Welcome Home Coalition  
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services