

POVERTY IN OREGON

- Numbers in Poverty: 537,974
- 13.2% of Oregonian's live below the poverty line (\$24,860 or less for a family of 4)
- 15.9% of Oregon children live in poverty
- 21.8% of Oregon Native Americans live in poverty
- 25.8% of Oregon African Americans live in poverty

Prosperity 1000

HB 2310 Oregon's Solution to Pressing Workforce and Poverty Concerns

HB 2310 creates a pilot program to provide case management, training and related support for at least 1000 people in high-wage, high-demand careers. In partnership with the Department of Human Services, \$5 million will be allocated from the general fund to Oregon Local Workforce Development Boards to align related investments and target individuals in areas of concentrated poverty for career track employment. This investment leverages the capacity and resources of Oregon's public workforce development system, brings additional resources to the State to fight poverty, and creates shared focus and accountability across multiple programs and providers.

The Problem

- **Squeezed out middle class**— Across the state of Oregon, in both metro and rural communities, people who live in areas of high concentrations of poverty are lacking opportunities to jobs in high-demand, high-wage earning careers. Structural changes in Oregon's economy have left low-income, low-skilled people further behind and increasingly unable to secure steady work at family-supporting wages.
- **Increasing poverty** —More than 500,000 Oregonians live in poverty. Oregon has one of the highest proportions of households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamp) benefits in the nation. At the same time, employers grapple with a shortage of skilled labor to drive productivity and growth while unskilled residents struggle with insufficient, stagnating wages.
- **Significant cuts in Federal Funding**—Significant cuts to federal funding have reduced the state's ability to meaningfully address poverty, inequity, and current skills shortages. We need to provide a connection for individuals facing barriers to local careers that require high skills, and provide high wages.

The Solution

Prosperity 1000 will:

- **Reduce poverty** caused by declining middle-income employment, through skill development and career-track employment in targeted sectors that have quality jobs and shortages of skilled labor.
- **Restore federal funding** generating a 50% match in federal funding for training and jobs through the WorkSource Oregon 50/50 program.
- **Build a sustainable system** within the public workforce system that supports individual and business prosperity.
- **Restore hope** by ensuring all Oregonians have the opportunity to fully participate in the State's growing economic success by addressing persistent and concentrated poverty through skill development and career-track employment.

The Outcome

1000 Oregonians experiencing poverty will receive occupational training and job placement into target industries with 75% earning \$15/hour or more.