



Coastal Housing Center
93781 Newport Ln.
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone: 541-756-1000

Main Office
605 SE Kane St.
Roseburg, OR 97470
Phone: 541-673-4909

March 26th, 2019

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Findley, Vice-Chair Marsh, and esteemed members of the Committee,

I write you today on behalf of NeighborWorks Umpqua to express the organization’s support for HB 3133, which would increase the number of individuals and families served through the Oregon Individual Development Account (IDA) initiative.

NeighborWorks Umpqua is a rural-focused housing and community development corporation committed to promoting opportunity for all. Working primarily in the five counties of Southwestern Oregon (Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson & Josephine), while supporting the IDA initiative in six additional counties, the organization has firsthand experience on the impact of the program to communities, particularly rural communities. Building assets and empowering households to become more financially secure, allows individuals to exercise fuller agency in their own lives, which in turn creates more resilient communities.

NeighborWorks Umpqua uses the IDA initiative as a community development tool. Through the initiative, community members buy and fix their homes, which improves health and educational outcomes tied to stable healthy housing; increase educational attainment, which tackles rural underemployment; increase their participation in the local job market through assistive technologies, and; build or grow small businesses, which strengthen rural economies. As a housing tool, the IDA initiative lowers barriers to home ownership, preserves local housing stock through repairs, supports increasing the energy efficiency of people’s homes and provides education and other tools to keep people in their homes. Organizations like NeighborWorks Umpqua pair the IDA initiative with other home ownership programs, allowing the initial impact of the investment to be amplified significantly.

For these reasons, NeighborWorks Umpqua supports the expansion of the IDA initiative proposed in HB 3133. The proposed bill not only provides tools to organizations like NeighborWorks Umpqua to fight the housing crisis in our region, but also supports our communities becoming more resilient places to call home.

Sincerely,

Arielle Reid
Director of Policy & Advocacy
NeighborWorks Umpqua



Equal Housing Opportunity and Equal Housing Lender
www.nwumpqua.org | CCB# 15199 | NMLS# 255912



Success Stories

Tales from our customers.



Stories courtesy of Carlos Gomez from NeighborWorks Umpqua

- Kany Keita was looking for a car. Not just any car, but her DREAM car. Thanks to the IDA program, she was able to find just the right vehicle at the right price.



Success Stories

Tales from our customers.



Story courtesy of Michelle Scott from Klamath & Lake Homeownership Center Manager

Jolean was homeless when she met Michelle. She had lost her children after she had succumbed to the temptations of drug and alcohol abuse. She felt hopeless and never thought she would be able to succeed. She checked herself into treatment and reached out to Klamath & Lake Community Action Services (KLCAS).

Jolean entered into the following KLCAS programs (listed in chronological order):

- Homeless prevention rental assistance
- Energy (helps with her bills)
- Energy education class
- ON Track class (basic budget and consumer protection class taught by Michelle Scott)
- Smart Start Financial Capabilities (funded by Leightman Maxey foundation prior to OHCS funds)
- Pre-Purchase Housing Counseling
- Financial Fitness class
- IDA program
- Home Buying class

Jolean's credit score was 475 when Michelle first met her. In ONE YEAR she raised her credit score to the very high 600's. The IDA Initiative helped Jolean immensely. Thanks to the program, she was able to have a successful and SUSTAINABLE outcome. Thanks to the support of NeighborWorks Umpqua, KLCAS was able to create meaningful impact with a vulnerable client. The IDA funds available for KLCAS helped Jolean buy her own home! Want to watch video of Jolean's story? Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-9Y0HISqG8.

