



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

Support HB 5512

Funding for Emergency Housing Assistance and State Homelessness Assistance Program Oregon Housing and Community Services Budget

Emergency shelter and stable housing are keys to safety for survivors.

Oregon's housing crisis has a particularly serious impact on victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Without safe, stable, affordable housing, victims are at greater risk of abuse or homelessness.

Please support emergency housing services in HB 5512.

In this current housing crisis, the need for emergency housing assistance and shelter is greater than ever. Please support \$50 million in the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) in the Oregon Housing and Community Services Budget. (HB 5512). EHA and SHAP are critically important tools that enable community-based programs across the state to provide vulnerable Oregonians with short-term rent assistance, assistance with deposits or application fees, and temporary emergency shelter. These programs help prevent and end homelessness. These programs save lives.

Facts about Domestic and Sexual Violence and Housing in Oregon:

- Oregon has one of the nation's highest rates of violence against women. Over a million Oregon women and girls have been victims of DVSA (more than half the female population.)¹
- Oregon women face significant rates of housing instability. Women who rent are the most cost-burdened in the state.²
- One study found that 13% of homeless women reported having been raped in the past 12 months, and half of those women had been raped at least twice.³
- Many domestic and sexual violence shelters lack capacity to house families longer than 30 days. The average length of time it takes a homeless family to secure housing is 6-10 months.⁴
- Victims of domestic and sexual violence often have no option but to depend on abusers if they cannot find safe housing alternatives for themselves and their children.⁵
- The majority of battered women in transitional housing programs state that had these programs not existed, they would have had no option but to return to unsafe homes.⁶
- When victims of violence have safety and stability, they can begin to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children. Funding for emergency housing assistance and stabilizing housing policies can save lives, and futures.

¹ Count Her In 2017: <https://womensfoundationoforegon.org/uploads/CountHerInreport.pdf>

² Ibid

³ Wenzel, S.L., Leake, B.D., & Gelberg, L. (2001). Risk factors for major violence among homeless women. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 16, 739-752.

⁴ vi *Lifting the Voices of Homeless Women*, Roofless Women's Action Research Mobilization, Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development, 1997.

⁵ v Correia, A., *Housing and Battered Women: A case study of domestic violence programs in Iowa*. Harrisburg, PA: National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. March, 1999.

⁶ Melbin, Anna, Chris Sullivan & Debra Cain. "Transitional Supportive Housing Programs: Battered Women's Perspectives and Recommendations" *AFFILIA*, Vol. 18 No. 4. 2003.