



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

Support HB 5512 Funding for Domestic and Sexual Violence Housing Navigator Proposal Oregon Housing and Community Services Budget

Support \$5 million in OHCS Budget to provide resources for community-based domestic violence and sexual assault (DVSA) programs to assist survivors with housing needs:

- **Navigation and Homelessness Prevention Services to Survivors:** Funding to add staffing capacity to grantees within the network of community-based DVSA programs to assist survivors with housing needs. Services would be DVSA-informed, trauma-informed case management and assistance with homelessness prevention and housing stability as a part of safety planning. Individualized assistance with landlord negotiation, establishing safety in current housing, moving for safety reasons, housing search, application process, tenant education, and other case management re: housing safety and stability issues. Community networking, education, and outreach will facilitate liasons with housing providers.
- **Emergency Housing, Homelessness Prevention, and Rapid Re-Housing Funds:** Prevention services to enable survivors at imminent risk of homelessness or unstably or unsafely housed to have a safe place to sleep, regain stability in their current housing, or find other safe housing. Services provided in conjunction with safety-planning and DVSA resources, and to include: Motel or hotel vouchers, rent payments and arrearages, utility payments and arrearages, moving costs, landlord required deposits and application fees, relocation assistance.

Rationale: In 2017, Oregon’s Domestic and Sexual Violence shelters turned away more than 8,000 requests for emergency shelter due to lack of capacity – forcing advocates and survivors to brainstorm safe spaces to sleep in the streets, at airports, on the max train, etc. These services will ensure greater safety and stability for survivors and their children:

- The 2018 Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women statewide survey identified housing stability as the greatest single issue facing survivors in both rural and urban communities across the state.¹
- The 2017 National Network to End Domestic Violence Census identified housing as the greatest unmet need for survivors in Oregon.²
- The time when a survivor attempts to leave a violent relationship is extremely dangerous. Survivors need DVSA and trauma-informed support and assistance to address shelter and housing needs within the context of a safety plan.
- Many survivors do not access other state resources. Locating this assistance at the DVSA shelter network assures accessibility for survivors.

¹ <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/201711/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/150533>

² <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/201711/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/150549>:

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