

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 80: Housing and Community Services Department Affordable Housing Stabilization**

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To:           Emergency Board Full Committee  
From:         Human Services Subcommittee  
Carrier:       Senator Manning

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The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$5,000,000 General Fund from the Emergency Fund to the Housing and Community Services Department for distribution to Home Forward, to administer an affordable housing stabilization grant fund for affordable housing providers that can demonstrate outstanding debt from past due rent accumulated by residents in affordable units between April 1, 2020 through April 30, 2022.

This request was made to the Co-Chairs of the Emergency Board by affordable housing providers with support from affordable housing advocates, the Governor’s Office and the Housing and Community Services Department. The funds would be granted by the Department to Home Forward and used to alleviate a portion of rental income losses during a period which corresponds to months that rent was due during Oregon’s Covid-19 state of emergency. Home Forward volunteered to administer the program to help expedite deployment of funds. To be eligible for a grant, a property must be owned by a non-profit, a local government, a public housing authority, or a for-profit affordable housing provider with regulatory affordable rental agreements in place. Funds could only be awarded for those units where the rent is affordable to households making less than 80% of area median income. As a condition of receiving these funds, housing providers who are awarded a grant must forgive an equivalent amount of tenant debt. The Department will report to the Emergency Board by December 2022 on awards made and debt alleviated.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.