



More than 60 Local and statewide organizations say Yes on SB 891 and SB 5561

- Extend the safe harbor until rent assistance applications are processed. People who have applied for help when we have the dollars available should not be evicted because of an arbitrary timeline or processing delays.
- Guarantee landlords who honor safe harbor are paid in the rare instance their tenant ultimately didn't qualify for assistance.
- Allocate \$215 million to fund rent assistance and housing stability services for state and local agencies, including \$10 million for the Landlord Guarantee Fund.

As our state moves into recovery from the pandemic, we must ensure that individuals and families who were most impacted are not left behind. The difficulties brought on by the pandemic were not spread evenly across our state. Our neighbors with lower incomes were impacted more harshly and for longer and they started further behind.

We need SB 891 and SB 5561 because:

- Nearly 32,000 households are still waiting for rent assistance, including 8,000 who have passed the current safe harbor period and have no protection from eviction.¹
- Nearly 2,300 nonpayment evictions have been filed in Oregon courts since the end of the eviction moratorium in June.²
- Oregon's Black, Indigenous, and communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID pandemic, and have needed to seek rent assistance at higher rates, and are at greater risk of eviction.³
- More than 67,000 Oregon households are experiencing housing instability due to inability to pay rent,⁴ and even before the pandemic, 1 in 4 Oregonians paid 50% or more of income for rent.⁵
- More than half of Oregon jobs pay less than survival wages for a parent and child before the pandemic and wage increases since then are offset by inflation.⁶
- Many low-income households had to borrow or use credit cards just to stay afloat even if they are working,⁷ leaving deep debt loads to pay off with low wages.
- Oregon has the third highest rate of unsheltered youth in the country⁸ and local shelters are straining at the seams.

Thank you for coming together to stop preventable evictions and keep individuals and families who are most at risk safe and stable in their homes.

¹ OHCS News Release 12/8/21

² Data from Oregon Law Center Eviction Defense Project

³ [OHA Covid-19 Weekly Report](#), Dec. 1, 2021, OHCS Dashboard

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2021/demo/hhp/hhp39.html>

⁵ [OregonHousing.blogspot.com](https://oregonhousing.blogspot.com/)/American Community Survey

⁶ Poor Quality Jobs Predominate in Strong Economy, Oregon Center for Public Policy, Sept. 1, 2021

⁷ US Census Pulse Surveys

⁸ "Thousands of homeless youth still in need of housing and services across Oregon, new report finds," Statesman Journal, Nov. 8, 2021

