



February 8, 2022

Testimony in Support of House Bill 4123

House Committee on Housing
Oregon Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO), we urge you to support House Bill 4123. This effort will establish and invest in regional coordination of efforts to prevent and end homelessness through eight locally-led pilot projects throughout the state.

Serving every county in Oregon, our network offers geographic coverage and a wide array of programs that serve low-income children, families, and seniors. This community-based approach creates a unique and effective system for fighting poverty in Oregon. Coordinating Community Action programs with thousands of partners statewide means greater efficiency, fewer gaps, and better support for Oregonians in need. In addition to partnerships with local governments, we collaborate and work with non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, culturally responsive and specific organizations, and school districts.

This legislation will strengthen local efforts, especially in rural communities, to better coordinate and identify opportunities to more effectively leverage existing funds and access new resources. It also invests in a more equitable, accessible, and responsive system to meet the needs of local residents in these communities. We support this effort to strengthen coordination with existing community partners, culturally responsive and specific organizations, and state and federal systems to enhance solutions to homelessness, including critical connections to permanent affordable housing.

Given the unprecedented homelessness crisis in the midst of today's health pandemic, time is of the essence and we believe there is a shared responsibility to work together to help Oregonians struggling to find housing stability. Join us in supporting this investment in local collaboration and shared responsibility with the passage of House Bill 4123.